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Ash Lea Infection Control Policy

Introduction

This policy has been written with regard to guidance from Public Health England regarding infection control in schools (See Appendix 1 for more detailed information).

Aims and objectives

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and in the event of an outbreak of an infection such as pandemic influenza or any other contagious illness.

Principles

The school recognises that infections such as influenza pandemics are not new. No-one knows exactly when the school will be faced with having to deal with a potentially contagious illness amongst its community. We recognise the need to be prepared. Infections are likely to spread particularly rapidly in schools and as children, especially very young may have no residual immunity, they could be amongst the groups worst affected. Additionally, at Ash Lea we have some pupils on role who have additional underlying conditions that can make them more susceptible to infection and the impact of infections. We recognise that closing the school may be necessary in exceptional circumstances in order to control an infection. However, we will strive to remain open unless advised otherwise by Public Health England or the Government or the Local Authority. We will take advice from health care professionals in this regard.

Good pastoral care includes promoting healthy living and good hand hygiene. School staff will give pupils positive messages about health and well-being through lessons and through every day general conversations with pupils in lessons as well as at break and lunch times. This is also incorporated into our PSHE curriculum with a tailored approach to teaching individual pupils about personal hygiene as appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Planning and preparing

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil or member of staff has an infectious illness we will direct their parents to contact their GP and ask for advice. During an outbreak of an infectious illness such as pandemic influenza the school will seek to operate as normally as possible but will plan for higher levels of staff absence. The decision on whether school should remain open or close will be based on medical evidence and guidance will be sought from the Local Authority as well as Public Health England. This will be also be discussed with the Chair of Governors. It is likely that school will remain open but we recognise the fact that both the illness itself and the caring responsibilities of staff will impact staff absence levels. The school will close if we cannot provide adequate supervision for the children.

Infection control

Infections are usually spread from person to person by close contact, for example:



- Infected people can pass viruses to others via droplets from sneezes and coughs or even via talking in very close proximity
- Through direct contact with an infected person, for example, if you shake or hold their hand and then touch your own eyes, mouth or nose without washing your hand thoroughly first.
- By touching objects, e.g. door handles or light switches that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands thoroughly.

Staff, children, parents and visitors are given the following advice about how to reduce the risk of passing infections on to others:

- Wash your hands frequently during the day and always wash them after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Always wash your hands before eating and drinking or preparing food or drink for others. Many of our pupils will need support and guidance to wash their hands properly and at regular intervals during the school day.
- Minimise contact between your hand, mouth and nose.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing. Put all tissues and wipes in a PPE bin (which has a lid and a foot pedal). Bins will be emptied twice a day
- Do not attend school if you think you have an infectious illness. Seek medical advice on whether it is safe to attend and when it is safe to do so if advised to stay at home for a period of time.

Control of Infection

As part of the work within the school necessarily involves coming into contact with body fluids, it is essential that the risk of infection be minimised by the following sensible precautions known as “Universal Precautions” as advised by NHS Communicable Diseases Unit and School Health Service. This applies to staff, children and visitors to school

- good handwashing procedures. Many of our children will need support, guidance and time to achieve good handwashing practice
- before and after the working day for staff
- at the start of and end of the school day for children
- after using the toilet or helping a pupil to use the toilet
- after sneezing or blowing your nose; put tissues in a bin with a lid which has a foot pedal
- after contact with soiled equipment
- before putting on gloves and after removal of protective gloves
- before preparing or serving food/beverages
- when hands are visibly soiled



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- wearing gloves and plastic aprons (face coverings are also available) when cleaning up blood, urine, vomit or faeces spillages (use a spoil kit for blood and vomit, which is located in the health room)
- cleaning the spillage area with hot water and detergent solution for floors, and Milton if on a hard surface
- wear gloves and apron when changing nappies
- double bag the nappy placed soiled nappy bin which has a lid and is operated by a foot pedal
- wipe changing bed down before and after use with disinfectant

Use of separate spaces for some treatments or procedures (isolation room, AGP (suctioning room), MA bathroom)

- For some individuals or procedures, a separate space may be needed
- This will be identified on a school risk assessment or a pupil's individual one
- The room will only be use for the purpose of the RA
- All staff using the room need to have read the RA and signed to say they have understood it
- PPE must be worn in these rooms
- The room must be locked after use and deep cleaned
- Yellow bag serviced to be used if identified in RA

FREQUENT AND THOROUGH HAND WASHING IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF INFECTION CONTROL IN SCHOOLS

These messages are promoted through posters around the school, in assemblies and through Personal and Social Health Education lessons

Minimise sources of contamination

We will do everything we can to minimise the spread of infection, including;

- We will ensure relevant staff have Food Hygiene Certificates or other training in food handling. (all lunchtime assistants, Health care workers, personal care assistants)
- We store food that requires refrigeration, covered and dated within a refrigerator at a temperature of 5 C or below.
- We wash hands before and after handling food.

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- We clean and disinfect food storage and preparation areas regularly.
- Food is bought from reputable sources and used by the recommended date.

To Control the Spread of Infection

- We ensure good hand washing procedures (toilet, handling small animals, handling soil and preparing food.) We also support our pupils to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly.
- Pupils are encouraged to blow and wipe their own noses where possible and to dispose of the tissues safely and hygienically.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Appropriate PPE will be worn by staff where there is a risk of splashing, contamination of body fluids, for example, nappy or pad changing.
- Be aware of how to put PPE on and take off safely (see appendix to this policy)
- If staff are need to wear FFP3 masks, they need to have an individual fitting from the NCC H&S team

Cleaning of the environment

- Cleaning throughout the school is frequent and thorough including the cleaning of all toys, resources and equipment in class.
- Cleaning equipment such as buckets are colour coded and cleaned and replaced as needed.
- Cleaning contracts are monitored regularly and ensure cleaners have access to PPE.
- At times, when the risk of infection is deemed to be very significant, more regular deep cleaning of classrooms and corridors may be organised along with additional rounds of cleaning high frequency areas and those areas often touched by many people (door handles, light switches and so on).

Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages

All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges are cleaned up immediately (with staff wearing PPE). Staff need to collect a spill kit from the health room for blood and vomit. When spillages occur, they are cleaned thoroughly using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant to be effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for the surfaces used on. Mops are never used for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages – disposable paper towels are used and waste is disposed in secure, covered bins along with soiled nappies and pads.

Use of Spills Bodily Fluid Kits

- Spills kits are kept in health room and should be used for vomit and blood



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- Put on protective clothing gloves and aprons
- Sprinkle the Biohazard absorbent granules over the spill making sure the spill is fully covered and leave for 2 minutes
- Using Scoop and scraper remove the now solidified spillage and place in the biohazard bag
- Use the spray or dissolvable tablets to disinfect the area of the spill.
- Place used scoops, scraper, towels and protective clothing, gloves last in bag. Tie bag to seal. Dispose of bag into appropriate clinical waste disposal.
- Please inform the relevant person/s that you have used the kit so new stock can be ordered if required

Vulnerable children

Some of our children have medical conditions making them more vulnerable to infections that would be less serious in other children. These include those being treated for leukaemia or other cancers, those on high doses of steroids and with other conditions that seriously reduce immunity. The school will have been made aware of such children and it will be stated on their EHCP and taken into account in planning. These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles or parvovirus B19 and, if exposed to either of these, the school will contact the parent/carer and inform them promptly with further medical advice sought.

Female staff – pregnancy

If a pregnant woman develops symptoms of a potentially infectious illness, or is in direct contact with someone with a potentially infectious illness, this should be investigated according to PHE guidelines by a doctor and advice sought.

In school we follow the guidelines set by Public Health England, regarding the recommended period of time that pupils or staff should be absent from school. Detailed information about many conditions is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england> .

Roles and Responsibilities

The Head teacher

- Ensure that all staff read and understand their role and responsibility in complying with this policy.
- Ensuring that staff have the appropriate training needed to address and meet their obligations in relation to this policy.

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- Ensuring that the policy is adhered to on a day to day basis. Identifying and addressing incidents where it is not adhered to.
- Ensuring that staff have the necessary equipment and resources to carry out all aspects of their role in regard to this policy.

Governors

- To maintain and review this policy regularly and ensure it complies with guidance from both the LA and from Public Health England.
- To seek evidence from school leaders that the policy is being adhered to by all staff.

Senior leaders

- To ensure all their team members have read and understand the policy and their roles and responsibilities contained within
- To monitor the extent to which staff adhere to the policy, identify any breaches and provide further support and training for staff who require it.
- To report any concerns that cannot be easily addressed within the team to SLT

Curriculum Leaders

- To review their curriculum plans and ensure they incorporate the key facets of this policy, especially around such things as opportunities to reinforce messages about personal hygiene across the school curriculum.

Teachers and teaching assistants

- To ensure that messages about good personal hygiene are reinforced at every opportunity throughout the school day. This includes in lessons as well as at lunch and break times.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to carry out personal hygiene tasks as appropriate. For example, time set aside to wash their hands before lunch and to ensure that those pupils who need support with personal hygiene tasks receive this.
- To ensure that each classroom displays the basic rules of ensuring good personal hygiene provided in a way that pupils can understand and follow (e.g via Makaton Symbols or other picture clues).

Links with other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Ash Lea Health and Safety policy, the administration of medicines policy, the safeguarding policy, intimate care (and care plans) as well as the school attendance policy.

Monitor and Review

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Every three years, we will review our objectives in relation to any changes in our school profile. Our objectives will sit in our overall school improvement plan and therefore will be reviewed as part of this process.

Policy Adopted by Governors on: _____

Policy Last Reviewed on: _____

Policy Due for Review on: _____

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Governors

Signed:

Date:

Head Teacher.