



Tatworth

Primary School

CONTROL OF INFECTIONS

(COVID-19)

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**TATWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
CONTROL OF INFECTIONS POLICY**

Contents

Review Summary	
Statement of Intent	
Organisation and Responsibilities	
Arrangements 2.1 Risk Assessment 2.2 Basic Hygiene 2.3 Handwashing 2.4 Disposal of sharps 2.5 Catch it, bin it, kill it 2.6 Cleaning up of bodily fluids 2.7 Accidental contamination with bodily fluids 2.8 Public Health England 2.9 Training 2.10 First Aid 2.11 Immunisation 2.12 Contact with Animals 2.13 Ticks & Lyme Disease 2.14 Coronavirus COVID-19	
Conclusion	

Review Summary

2020	Updated to include Government guidance regarding COVID-19
2021	Updated to reflect current practice and guidance.

CONTROL OF INFECTIONS POLICY

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The School is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of staff, pupils and visitors as far as is reasonably practicable. Communicable disease can constitute a health and safety hazard to anyone entering the School and this policy aims to ensure that such risks are reduced wherever possible.

It is important that staff are aware of this policy and of statutory reporting procedures and of the outside agencies involved in dealing with outbreaks of disease.

Staff should also be particularly aware of the practical procedures to control the spread of communicable diseases especially, at this time, those relating to COVID-19.

Staff should also be aware of the School First Aid and Medicine Policy, Behaviour Policy – Annex COVID-19 and Suspected COVID-19 Symptoms Procedures which may also be relevant.

Section 1: ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 Head Teacher Responsibilities

The Head Teacher shall ensure the following:-

- a. that staff are informed of any risk to their health from a communicable disease that might arise as a result of their work or working environment and advise them on the means of avoiding either becoming infected or infecting others,
- b. that infection control issues are considered when doing workplace assessments,
- c. that staff are instructed, monitored and up-dated in correct infection control procedures,
- d. that sharps injuries are reported, and that staff follow the correct procedures.
- e. that appropriate quantities of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are available.
- f. that good standards of cleaning are always maintained.
- g. in the event of an outbreak of infection the Headteacher will arrange for relevant areas to be deep cleaned.

1.1 All Staff

Individual staff are responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with and follow the infection control procedures for their own area.

If any member of staff is sick or has diarrhoea due to contracting an infectious bug, they should not return to school until symptoms have been clear for 48 hours.

Should any member of staff show signs of Coronavirus they should not come into school and should follow Government guidelines.

1.2 First Aiders

Individuals may be exposed to infectious substances such as blood and other bodily fluids and should take the following precautions to reduce the risk of infection:

- Cover any cuts or grazes on their skin with a waterproof dressing
- Wear suitable disposable gloves when dealing with blood or any bodily fluids
- Use suitable eye protection and a disposable plastic apron where splashing is possible
- Use resuscitation screen if you must give mouth to mouth resuscitation
- Wash your hands after each procedure.

1.3 Kitchen Manager and all Catering Staff (Acorn Academy Trust - catering)

The two main pieces of legislation which address issues of infection control on the area of food preparation are **The Food Safety Act 1990 and The Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations 2013.**

- All those with the responsibility for food preparation should be aware of their duties under this legislation and have received training applicable to their level of responsibility in the food preparation area. The School requires that the minimum training for all kitchen staff must be the Basic Food Hygiene Certificate. If the new staff do not hold this certificate when they join the School, arrangements should be made within a month for them to attend a course. New catering staff must be made aware of food hygiene arrangements.
- All members of the catering staff should familiarise themselves with the schools Control of Food Products Policy
- Any member of the catering staff who reports that they are suffering from diarrhoea and/or vomiting should be excluded from food preparation or serving until they are symptom free for 48 hours.
- Food handlers with skin problems especially on the hands and forearms should be excluded from food preparation until the skin is healed.
- Food handlers suffering from colds and coughs should not be working while still at the acute stage of the illness.
- All food handlers who consult their doctors about any infectious disease should make sure their doctor is aware of the work they do
- Food handlers who smoke should be reminded to wash their hands after smoking and before resuming their food preparation tasks.

1.4 Pregnant Staff/Visitors

- Pregnant staff will need to be given special advice of certain infectious diseases such as Coronavirus COVID-19, German Measles (Rubella) and Chicken Pox (Varicella-Zosta). As staff might not be aware that they are pregnant everyone should be informed if there are cases

1.5 Pupils and Parents

Pupils are expected to comply with any request from staff to leave the area if someone is unwell. They should also report any concerns they may have to a member of staff.

Any pupil who is unwell, and likely to be contagious, should stay away from the School until they have been symptom free for 48 hours. If a pupil is symptomatic of Coronavirus COVID-19 they, and their household should follow Government guidelines. Parents are asked to ensure that this happens.

Section 2: ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 Risk Assessment

- A general risk assessment of the School premises should consider the hazards that might be posed by infectious disease. In some areas there will be little, or no risk identified over and above that which is encountered in everyday life. In some areas, however, where there exists a student or employee with known or probable health problems, further analysis will have to be made.
- The care plans of individual students with special needs should indicate if they are suffering from an infectious disease that requires special precautions to be taken, especially if they require personal care. This would also apply to students who are unpredictable and violent. However, the confidentiality of the student's medical condition should be protected whenever possible.
- Immunisation advice to staff will cover some aspects of risk, as will training in sound hygiene practices such as washing and universal precautions (see 2.2-2.3).
- As a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic extensive Risk Assessments have been conducted. These are continuously under review

2.2 Basic Hygiene Measures

- In all areas of the School it is important to observe good basic hygiene procedures. **Universal Infection Control Precautions** is an approach to infection control that assumes anybody might be infectious, even if they do not fall into an obvious risk group. Therefore, when dealing with any fluids, it is necessary to employ infection control measures.

Additional Hygiene Measures because of Coronavirus Pandemic

- Each classroom will have a soft-close lidded bin that may be operated by foot and the contents will be double lined.
- On a daily basis cleaners will: empty/clean bins and put in new liners; check supplies of tissues in each room; check handwashes; replenish paper towels in all used classrooms and toilets; check that each room that is being used has a sick bowl,
- Cleaners will clean all toilets at lunch time and deep clean them at the end of the school day
- Cleaners will thoroughly clean all areas that have been used daily.
- If the cleaners need to clean the isolation room (once it has been used) they should wear PPE (disposable apron, gloves, eye mask, and face mask)
- Once a symptomatic child or member of staff has left the school cleaning will follow [Cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#) to ensure areas they have been in are disinfected and any PPE and other waste is disposed of safely.
- The Caretaker will empty bins on the play zones daily
- Children will use their personal resources from their pencil case.
- All water fountains will be turned off or cordoned off.
- Class Teachers will clean items in their room throughout the day. Each room will be provided with sufficient cleaning items that will be stored in locked cupboards

- To improve ventilation interior doors and windows should be open. Exterior windows should be at least half open, whilst maintaining a reasonable temperature to work in. Children will leave the room for a period of 5 minutes between each lesson to allow all windows to be opened to further ventilate the room.
- During the Autumn Term 2021 the school will receive CO² monitors, from Government, to help monitor ventilation.
- Everyone keeps to the left whilst walking around the school.
- Play equipment will only be used following our H&S Consultants advice.
- Each year group will have an allocated entry/collection gate.
- Children will wash their hands in classroom and sit at their desks to eat snack/lunch
- Children will be encouraged to play games that avoid contact with each other
- During the day, if a class teacher becomes concerned about a child in their group, they will follow the procedures for suspected COVID-19 symptoms.
- Parents are asked to keep their children at home if they are showing any signs of illness
- Additional areas have been allocated as staff rooms to reduce the number of staff congregating together at any one time. Additional areas are the loft (now not available until water damage repairs completed on hall floor) and the Gold Room. The Wellbeing garden may also be used in fine weather.

2.3 Handwashing

All staff and children will wash their hands-on arrival and regularly throughout the day.

Effective hand washing is an important method of controlling the spread of infections. Therefore, always wash hands after using the toilet and before eating or handling food using the following technique:

- a. Use warm running water and a mild, preferably liquid, soap.
- b. Rub hands vigorously together until soapy lather develops and continue for at least 20 seconds ensuring that all surfaces of the hand are covered.
- c. Rinse hands under running water and dry hands with a paper towel
- d. Discard paper towels into a bin (pedal bins are preferable).
- e. It is important to ensure that hand basins are kept clean.

2.4 Catch It, Bin It, Kill It

- Each classroom will have at least one box of tissues near the bin/sink with a catch it, bin it, kill it poster
- Cleaners will check supplies daily

2.5 Disposal of Sharps

- Sharps are sometimes found discarded on some School premises. Sharps include needles or syringes, scalpel blades, and razor blades etc. Used sharps will inevitably have traces of blood on them. Therefore, it is important that they are not allowed to cut or penetrate the skin of another person after they have been used.

- If the presence of sharps is discovered they must be isolated and reported to the Headteacher. South Somerset District Council will be contacted regarding suitable disposal.

2.6 Cleaning-up Body Fluid Spills

- Disposable gloves must be available and should be worn. These should be vinyl gloves not latex which is known to cause allergic reactions in some people. Plastic aprons should also be available and used where necessary.
- Any cuts on the hands or arms should be covered with waterproof plasters.
- Clean the pupil (or staff member) and remove them from the immediate area.
- Isolate the area with signs, chairs, cones etc.
- The spillage should be covered with paper towels and soaked with 1 in 10 diluted bleach or one of the proprietary clean-up packs, which can be purchased for these circumstances, can be used. The proprietary brands are generally safer to handle and more appropriate on carpets and upholstery.
- Leave for 10 minutes or follow the instructions enclosed with proprietary brand.
- Clean up spillage.
- This can be disposed of by flushing down the toilet.
- The area should then be cleaned thoroughly with detergent and hot water using disposable cloths, and then wiped over using standard hypochlorite solution (bleach, Milton) following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Then remove and dispose of PPE (gloves, apron) and wash hands thoroughly (*as described in 2.3 above*)

2.7 Accidental Contamination with Body Fluids

- Blood borne viruses do not invade the body through intact skin; they can however penetrate through open wounds, mucous membrane (mouth), conjunctivae (eyes) and puncture wounds (so-called "sharp issues" injuries).
- In the event of an accident with body fluids that results in possible contamination the following procedures should be followed:

IMMEDIATE ACTION by the person involved, first aider and manager:

- make the wound bleed for a few seconds, but do not suck the wound.
- wash the wound with soap and warm running water, do not scrub
- cover the wound
- conjunctivae (eyes), mucous membrane (mouth) should be washed well under running water.

- e. Report the incident to the Head Teacher and ask them to complete, with your help, an accident form as soon as possible. The accident form should note: whether the injury is deep, if there was visible blood on the device causing the injury, or if there is known HIV related illness.

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (WITHIN THE HOUR)

- a. Report the matter to your GP or the local A&E department.
- b. Take the accident form with you to the GP.
- c. If you have had Hepatitis B vaccination in the past you should remind your GP of the fact.
- d. However if you have not had a vaccine within the last six months the doctor will probably decide to give a booster.
- e. Blood should be taken and tested for Hepatitis B.
- f. Public Health England should be informed of the incident by the Head Teacher. If the person whose bodily fluids are involved is known, their details should be given to the PHE.
- g. The Headteacher should also report the occurrence to the HSE under RIDDOR (Form 2508A) and ensure that the above actions are carried out by the person involved in the accident.

2.8 Public Health England (PHE)

Public Health England is responsible for dealing with outbreaks of communicable disease. Their [Communicable Disease Outbreak Management](#) document may be accessed from their website.

The following are notifiable diseases:

Acute encephalitis
Acute infectious hepatitis
Acute meningitis
Acute poliomyelitis
Anthrax
Botulism
Brucellosis
Cholera
COVID-19
Diphtheria
Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)
Food poisoning
Haemolytic – uraemic syndrome (HUS)
Infectious bloody diarrhoea
Invasive group A streptococcal disease and scarlet fever
Legionnaires' disease
Leprosy

Malaria
Measles
Meningococcal septicaemia
Mumps
Plague
Rabies
Rubella
SARS
Scarlet fever
Smallpox
Tetanus
Tuberculosis
Typhus
Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)
Whooping cough
Yellow Fever

Public Health England South West – 0300 303 8162 swhpt@phe.gov.uk

Please refer to item 12.4 regarding COVID-19

2.9 Training

- Training should be delivered to staff where there is an identified risk.
- Appropriate training will need to be identified for the different categories of infection risk that staff encounter in their particular jobs. Staff working entirely in the Academy office are unlikely to require training. Cleaners, facilities staff and staff supporting pupils with special needs will require specific instruction in this area.
- Food handlers must attain the appropriate Food Hygiene Certificates as soon as possible after they are employed if they do not already hold these qualifications.

2.10 First Aid

- First Aid is an area that might expose individuals to infectious substances such as blood and other bodily fluids. Within the training for an Occupational First Aider there is an element of infection control based on Universal Infection Control Precautions.
- Staff responsible for purchasing first aid materials should supply first aiders with suitable vinyl protective gloves, aprons and resuscitation face masks in addition to the basic requirements of the first aid box (*see **Universal Infection Control Procedures** for further details*).

2.11 Immunisation

- Specific immunisation is not necessary for all staff in the context of their work. However school staff have been identified as being at risk of specific infections, such as, Tuberculosis (TB), Rubella, Polio and Tetanus. Staff should

be issued with advice when sent their pre-employment medical questionnaire.

- It is not considered necessary for the Hepatitis B or HIV/AIDS status of staff to be declared. If the Infection Control Procedures are set out in these Guidelines are followed there will be no risk to either students or other staff.

2.12 Contact with Animals

- Farm visits pose a potential risk of infection to students and adults. Generally farms that are open for visits are plentifully supplied with wash hand basins. Pupils should be instructed to wash their hands thoroughly after touching animals, especially before eating.
- Pond Dipping and Canoeing are activities that might bring students into contact with leptospirosis (Weil's Disease). This is a disease caused by contact with the urine of infected rats. The organism can penetrate skin, especially broken skin. Therefore cover any abrasion with waterproof plasters and wash thoroughly after contact with pond or river water. Symptoms develop about ten days after contact and can include severe headache, severe muscle aches and tenderness, redness of the eyes, loss of appetite, vomiting and sometimes a skin rash. Anyone who has been in contact with pond or river water and subsequently develops any of these symptoms in the time period should mention the contact to their doctor. Early treatment with antibiotics is usually effective. Symptoms can seem similar to influenza illness.

2.13 Ticks & Lyme Disease

- Ticks can be found in woodland, moors, parks and gardens throughout the UK. Staff and children participating in residential trips and Forest School should have an awareness of the presence of ticks when accessing long grass and moorland.

To stay safe the following guidance should be followed:

- Keep your legs and arms covered
- Try not to brush against vegetation
- Wear light coloured clothing: ticks are easier to spot
- Check each other's skin for ticks after a walk: tick bites are painless and can go unnoticed

Tick removal tools and guidance on use can be found within the:

- Off-site First Aid kit
- Forest School first aid kit
- First aid kit in the school library

Some ticks carry Lyme disease which is an infection caused by bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

Symptoms may appear between 2 and 30 days after the bite and include:

- Feeling unwell with 'flu-like' symptoms
- Extreme fatigue

- Muscle, tendon or joint pain
- Muscle weakness
- Stiff neck
- Headache
- Disturbances of sight, hearing, digestive system or sleep
- A 'Bulls eye' rash

Lyme disease is treatable with antibiotics: the sooner the better.

Parents must be informed and provided with guidance on symptoms to be aware of if a tick has been removed from their child's skin.

12.14 Coronavirus COVID-19

Anyone who begins to display coronavirus symptoms while in school should be sent home immediately and follow government guidelines on [what to do if you or someone in your household develops symptoms](#).

The school Suspected COVID-19 Symptoms Procedures will be followed.
These procedures will be displayed in the Staff Room.

All staff and children should follow Test and Trace advice and book a PCR test if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19.

The school will comply with Government guidance and follow advice received from Test and Trace.