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Infection Control Policy

St Aubyn's School

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

The aim of this policy is the prevention of communicable diseases and their spread whilst interfering as little as possible with the attendance of children at school. The following guidance deals with First Aid procedures, good hygiene practices, pupils with an infectious disease, and the safe disposal of offensive waste. Because infections can be passed on before a person is unwell, it is important that high standards of basic hygiene are always maintained.

All blood and body fluids, including respiratory droplets, should be treated as potentially infectious. Infections can be passed on even when a person looks and feels well. Reasonable steps should always therefore be taken to protect against exposure to blood, body fluids and respiratory emissions, regardless of an individual's infection status. These will provide protection against those diseases where infection may be spread by direct or indirect contact e.g. on hands or contaminated objects.

These basic precautions include:

- The use of proper handwashing procedures.
- Safe treatment of soiling and spills.
- The correct management of incidents involving blood or other body fluids.
- The safe disposal of offensive waste and sharps (any sharp instrument like a needle).

First Aid Procedures

Under normal circumstances, disposable gloves should be worn for all tasks involving blood, vomit or urine. Disposable plastic aprons may also be required in certain situations.

- First Aiders should wash their hands before (if possible) and after giving First Aid.
- Disposable gloves are available in all First Aid Boxes.
- After giving First Aid, the gloved hands should be washed with soap and water to remove all traces of blood, gloves disposed of in a yellow bag and the hands washed again. The yellow bag should be taken to the Medical Room and disposed of in the grey, offensive waste bin.
- Any splashes of blood/body fluids to the eyes or mouth from another person should be washed out immediately with copious amounts of water. Splashes on the skin should be washed off with soap and water.
- Human bites/accidental inoculation (where the skin has been pierced and there has been possible contact with blood from another person): Encourage bleeding by gently squeezing the wound. Wash the area thoroughly with water and cover with a plaster.

All First Aid incidents must be reported either in person or in writing to the School Nurse. Any incident involving human bites/accidental inoculation or contamination by the blood of another person must be reported to the School Nurse immediately. An accident form must be completed for bites to staff, and bites to pupils must be recorded on SchoolBase. Human bites/accidental inoculation normally require medical treatment and in the absence of the School Nurse should be referred to the GP or A&E immediately.

Good Hygiene Practices

Good hygiene practices include personal hygiene, spillages of blood or body fluids and the safe disposal of offensive waste.

Personal Hygiene

- Toilet facilities (including toilet paper) must be provided. Facilities for washing hands with liquid soap and warm water, and drying hands must be available. Children should be encouraged to use them and be supervised where necessary. A continuous loop towel for drying hands is not recommended.
- Hands should be thoroughly washed/cleaned (using soap and water or hand sanitiser) and dried before meals, after using the toilet, after handling pets and whenever they become soiled. Bar soap should not be used. Hand gel can be used if hands are not visibly dirty. Alcohol hand gel is not effective against organisms that cause gastroenteritis, such as norovirus.
- Children and young people should be educated on why hand hygiene is so important.

Spillages of blood or body fluids

Again, under normal circumstances, disposable gloves should be worn for all tasks involving blood, vomit, faeces or urine. Disposable plastic aprons may also be necessary in certain situations.

- Spillages of blood, vomit, urine and faeces must be cleaned up as quickly as possible. Other persons should be kept away from the contamination until it is effectively dealt with.
- Any spillages onto clothing, carpet or upholstery must have any excess mopped up with a disposable cloth or paper towels and then sponged with warm soapy water. The Maintenance Department has a carpet cleaning machine that must be deployed as soon as possible. Clothing should be washed as soon as possible using as high a temperature as possible or dry cleaned.
- Any spillages onto a hard surface should have disinfectant (see below) poured onto the spill, covered with paper towels and be left for a short while. Any excess disinfectant should be mopped up with more paper towels and the area cleaned in the normal manner.

Body Fluid Disposal Kits: In an emergency, when the above steps cannot be undertaken, Body Fluid Disposal Kits can be used. Each Department has a kit which is in a yellow box. The kit contains clear instructions on dealing with a spill. Refills can be obtained from the School Nurse. One kit is also kept on the minibus.

Disinfectant solution: Use ordinary household bleach freshly diluted 1:10. Do not get this on the skin. If accidental contact occurs, flush with copious amounts of water. Always use freshly diluted disinfectant. Bleach can corrode metal and damage fabric if used at the wrong concentration.

Safe disposal of offensive waste

Offensive waste is defined as any waste that is not infectious but may contain body fluids, secretions or excretions, this includes disposable gloves and aprons. Yellow plastic bags are found in First Aid Bags/boxes. All offensive waste must be disposed of in one of these bags which should be sealed, taken to the Medical Room and disposed of in the grey offensive waste bin.

St Aubyn's School has a contract with Initial Medical Services for the collection of offensive waste on a regular basis. Initial also provides the offensive waste unit and large yellow and black striped bags. In the event of the waste unit becoming full before the collection date, the bag should be removed, securely fastened and stored until the next collection date. The School Nurses will liaise with the Bursar and Initial, should the category of waste need to be changed.

'Sharps' must be disposed of into the 'sharps' bin, which is supplied by Initial. 'Sharps' waste is collected on an 'as required' basis as very little 'sharps' waste is generated.

Infectious Diseases

From time to time children, and sometimes staff, may develop an infectious disease. The majority are short lived, but some may be long term and the individual may be a carrier of an infectious disease. Pathogens (micro-organisms that can cause disease) can be spread via several routes:

- Contact – direct or indirect
- Airborne
- Arthropods

Direct contact – pathogens may be spread through direct contact with the body fluids of an infected individual.

Indirect contact – methods of transfer include:

- Other people e.g. via hands
- Animals e.g. salmonella
- Water e.g. cholera
- Inanimate objects e.g. respiratory equipment, contaminated surfaces, NB, some viruses can survive for up to 72 hours on hard surfaces
- Food

Airborne – pathogens only travel via airborne particles:

- Respiratory droplets – coughing and sneezing e.g. influenza
- Dust, which can contain skin cells and bacteria
- Water – via aerosol e.g. Legionnaires disease

Arthropods – these include bugs, flies, fleas, midges, mites, mosquitoes, lice and ticks, which can cause diseases such as scabies and malaria.

A child who has developed an infectious disease usually shows general signs of illness such as fever, headache, sore throat or general malaise before the development of a rash or other typical symptom. They are usually infectious before a diagnosis has been made. Carriers of certain diseases may have no symptoms at all and may not be aware of their infectivity. Some parents, for whatever reasons, may choose not to disclose information about their child's health. With this in mind, all blood and body fluids should be treated as potentially infectious and the precautions stated earlier followed.

St Aubyn's School follows the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Childcare Settings . A copy of this guidance is kept in the Medical Room. There are specific exclusion times for certain diseases. If a member of staff suspects an infectious disease, they should contact the School Nurse for further advice. If a parent informs the School that their child has an infectious disease, other pupils should be observed for similar symptoms. .

The risk of an individual acquiring an infection is influenced by his or her susceptibility. This is determined by age (children have immature immune systems), physical wellbeing, medical interventions (certain drugs lower immunity) and natural immunity. If First Aid Procedures and Good Hygiene Practices are followed, the risk of transmission of infectious diseases is greatly reduced.