

Maidensbridge Primary School



Infection Control Policy

Date: May 2020 Covid-19 update

Review: October 2020

Introduction

This policy has been written in line with the current guidance from the Health Protection Agency and the Public Health Agency and updated following government and LA advice on reducing the risk of Covid-19 infections.

Policy Aims

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and where possible preventing, the spread of infection within the school.

Principles

The school recognises that infections such as influenza 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, including the new risk of Covid-19.

We recognise the need to be prepared. Infections are likely to spread particularly rapidly in schools and as children may have no residual immunity, they could be amongst the groups worst affected. Although in the case of Covid-19, there is some suggested evidence that children do not suffer with extreme symptoms. We recognise that closing the school may be necessary in exceptional circumstances in order to control an infection and if there is a positive Covid-19 case from a test. However, we will strive to remain open if safe, unless advised otherwise. We will seek advice from the PHE and LA as to whether it will require a full or partial closure based on the number of cases.

Good pastoral care includes promoting healthy living and good hand and respiratory hygiene. Staff at Maidensbridge Primary School will work alongside School Health Advisors to ensure that pupils receive positive messages about health and well-being through lessons and conversations.

Staff will also teach children the importance of regular hand washing and social distancing to reduce the risk of transmission of germs.

Planning and Preparation

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil or member of staff has an infectious illness we would immediately consult with the Local Authority and the Public Health Agency then inform parents of their advice.

The child or staff member will either immediately go home, or will be isolated until a family member can collect them. Please see Covid-19 school risk assessment.

During an outbreak of an infectious illness such as pandemic influenza or Covid-19, 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. This will be discussed with the Public Health Agency. It

is likely that school will remain open, unless there is a positive Covid-19 case, 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 pupils and if cleaning cannot be provided efficiently with staff absence.

Infection Control

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

- Infected people can pass a virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing or even talking or singing within a close distance. (Staff to use social distancing measures as much as possible, please see Covid-19 risk assessment)
- Through direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.

- By touching objects (e.g. door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

Staff and pupils are given the following advice about how to reduce the risk of passing on infections to others:

- Wash your hands regularly, particularly after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Minimise contact between your hands and mouth/nose/eyes, unless you have just washed your hands.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue and then put the tissue in one of the school lidded bins.
- Do not attend school if you think you may have an infectious illness or symptoms of Covid-19 eg a temperature, a cough or loss of taste and smell.
- No singing in enclosed spaces and within 2m of anyone.

These messages are promoted throughout the school through the aid of posters and through Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons.

HAND WASHING IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF INFECTION CONTROL IN SCHOOLS.

Minimise sources of contamination

- We will encourage relevant staff to complete their Food Hygiene Certificate or other training in food handling.
- 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.
- We clean and disinfect food storage and preparation areas.
- Food is bought from reputable sources and used by recommended date.
- See Covid-19 risk assessment for details on how school will reduce transmission of coronavirus.

To control the spread of infection (please read in conjunction with the Covid-19 school risk assessment, which details specific actions to reduce infection)

- Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting and the spread of Covid-19. We promote good hand washing procedures using liquid soap and water and the use of a hand dryer or paper towels to dry hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, after undertaking intimate care and handling animals and on entering and exiting the building and after coughing or sneezing.

- Lunchtime staff should use the sanitising gel situated in the hall before assisting pupils with lunchtime routines.
- All Staff and visitors should use hand sanitiser stations around the school on entrance and exit to the building and when hand washing is not possible due to supervising the children.
- Door handles, chairs and tables will be wiped regularly and deep-cleaned daily. Toilets will be cleaned twice a day.
- Children are encouraged to blow and wipe their own noses when necessary and to dispose of the soiled tissues hygienically in a lidded bin provided.
- Wearing Personal Protective Clothing when cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages (e.g. disposable gloves and disposable apron). A visor may also be needed if delivering personal care or first aid or dealing with a child who is unwell and has Covid-19 symptoms. This should be discarded when used. Please see First Aid Policy and Intimate Care Policy
- Parents and visitors must adhere to social distancing rules and follow the one-way systems and signage on the school site to enable us to reduce the spread of transmission for staff and children.

In order to prevent the spread of infections in school we follow the guidelines set by the Public Health Agency, regarding the recommended period of time that pupils should be absent from school.

A summary of the most common conditions and recommended periods of absence are shown below.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting Illnesses

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	48 hours from the last episode
E Coli 0157	48 hours from the last episode
Typhoid	48 hours from the last episode
Shigella (dysentery)	48 hours from the last episode
Cryptosporidiosis	48 hours from the last episode

Respiratory Infections

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
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Covid-19 or Coronavirus – temperature, new continuous cough, loss of taste and smell.	Go home immediately and siblings if at school and isolate for 14 days or until a test is confirmed. The whole household will also need to self-isolate for 14 days unless tested and the result is negative. If at home, staff and parents should contact school immediately to inform of symptoms and isolation. Tests and isolation for others if necessary can be arranged.
Influenza	Until Recovered
Tuberculosis	Exclusion until permitted by GP
Whooping Cough	5 days from commencing antibiotics or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment.

Rashes and Skin Infections

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Athlete's Foot	None
Chicken Pox	5 days from onset of rash
Cold Sores	None
German Measles (Rubella)	6 days from onset of rash
Hand, Foot & Mouth	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed
Measles	4 days from onset of rash
Ringworm	None
Roseola	None
Scabies	Pupils can return after the first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after commencing antibiotics
Slapped Cheek	None
Warts & Verruca	None
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered

Other Infections

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Conjunctivitis	None
Diphtheria	Exclusion until permitted by GP

Glandular Fever	None
Headlice	None
Hepatitis A	Exclusion until permitted by GP
Hepatitis B or C	None
Meningococcal Meningitis/Septicaemia	Until Recovered
Bacterial Meningitis	Until Recovered
Viral Meningitis	None
Mumps	5 days from onset of swollen glands
Threadworms	None
Tonsillitis	None

Infection Control Policy Written by: Mrs Katie Thomas

Policy Review: October 2020

Signature Headteacher: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature Chair of Governors: _____ **Date:** _____