

## INFECTION CONTROL PROTOCOL

Kimbolton School aims to keep the premises clean and infection free with the safety and protection of its staff and pupils in mind.

### Universal precautions

Gloves and plastic aprons must be worn when dealing with body fluids, e.g., vomit, urine, excreta. All should be regarded as potentially infective.

### Spillage

In the event of a spillage of body fluids the area should be cleaned immediately with disinfectant diluted to the manufacturer's instructions

Body fluids include blood, urine, vomit, saliva, and faecal matter. All must be regarded as potentially infective and dealt with in a safe and effective manner.

### Procedure

- In the event of blood loss or vomiting the school nurse must be informed immediately to provide the appropriate treatment to the affected person.
- The area of the incident should be made safe by the first member of staff at the scene using yellow 'slippery floor' warning signs if necessary. Where appropriate the spillage may be covered with disposable towels.
- The school nurse and/or cleaning staff (via the cleaning manager) should be notified. The school nurse will attend when they have treated the patient.
- Disposable personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves aprons, and masks will be available in the medical room, as are disinfectant solutions.
- The spillage must be cleared at the earliest opportunity. The area should be covered using the spillage compound available from the school nurse or the cleaning managers office (sodium polyacrylate).
- This should be sprinkled over the spillage ensuring absolute coverage.
- Allow 90 sec approximately before scooping debris into a suitable disposable bag – preferably a yellow clinical waste bag
- The compound can be diluted to the manufacturer's instructions e.g., for carpets. Care should be taken with some floor coverings and soft furnishings which may not tolerate some disinfectant products. Where necessary bedding, loose covers etc can be sent directly to the laundry to be washed at a temperature as high as the fabric can stand.
- Any paper towels or similar should be sealed in a plastic rubbish bag. Disposal of infected or potentially infected material is through the medical centre and according to local authority guidelines.
- Any PPE equipment will be disposed of via the medical centre.
- An outside Clinical waste disposable company will be used to collect clinical waste from the medical centre, and this will be arranged by the school nurse.
- Following cleaning with disinfectants the area may subsequently be washed in the normal manner, and left to dry, using warning signs where necessary.
- Cleaning equipment must be washed after use and stored dry.

### **Clinical waste**

Clinical waste is sealed in a yellow bag meeting British Standards, and then placed in a black bin bag "double bagging" Disposal is via the normal rubbish. These can be found in all first aid and spillage kits.

### **Isolation**

Isolation may be necessary where there is potential for cross infection. Bedroom 2 in the health centre is designated for this. Both Kim and White House have nominated a room and bathroom to be used for isolation purposes if required. However, if a pupil has an infective illness they will be encouraged to go home until the risk of cross infection has passed.

### **Circumstances where a pupil needs to be kept away from School.**

If the School so requires due to a health risk either presented by your child to others or presented to your child by others or by reason of a virus, pandemic, epidemic or other health risk, you undertake to keep your child at home and not permit them to return to the school until such time as the health risk has passed. In these circumstances their education will be provided remotely via the school on-line resource. (Including sending your child work assignments electronically or by post).

### **Day pupils**

If a day pupil shows symptoms of an infectious illness, they will attend the health centre/medical room. Following assessment, if required, the school nurse will telephone the parents. The school nurse will escort them to their parents' car and sign them out once they are off the school premises and not return to school until the risk of cross infection has passed according to public health guidelines/department of Education

### **Nursing care**

When a pupil is in isolation the number of staff caring for them should be kept to a minimum. Where staff have other responsibilities, they may need to be relieved of some or all of their other duties. Plastic aprons, masks, and gloves must be worn when dealing with pupils who are infectious. **STRICT HAND HYGIENE IS ESSENTIAL.** The school nurse will devise an individual care plan for the pupil. It is also important to consider the mental and social effects of isolating a pupil.

**Boarders who are unwell** during the day will remain off school and in the medical centre under the care of the school nurse. After school hours a decision will be made with the boarding staff whether the pupil is able to return to their room or whether they need to isolate to prevent further cross infection. The boarding staff will monitor the pupil and medicate overnight as discussed with the school nurse. All events will be recorded in the relevant section of Engage. If appropriate the pupil returns to the health centre the next morning after 08:00 and remain there whilst unwell.

### **Bed linen**

The bed linen of an infectious person, or bed linen soaked with body fluids, needs to be washed at a temperature as high as the fabric can stand, as soon as possible. The school nurse will liaise with the house matron (Mandy) in boys boarding house. Bed linen in the medical room should be changed weekly if it has not been used. But after each pupil during outbreaks of any infectious cases.

**Bed spaces**

As per the national minimum standard 5.1 the floor area for each bed space will be no less than 7.4m<sup>2</sup> with a measurement of no less than 1.8m between each bed.

**Personal hygiene**

Toilet and bathing facilities within the isolation area should be kept for the sole use of the infected pupils. They should be cleaned daily with a disinfectant solution.

**Catering**

The school nurse/house matron will liaise with the kitchen to ensure that a suitable diet is provided. Crockery and cutlery should be washed at high temperature on a separate cycle.

**Visiting**

Friends of any pupil may NOT visit the isolation area.

**Cleaning**

The school nurse will supply the necessary disinfectant solutions and will liaise closely with the Bursar's department. Frequency of cleaning will be discussed.

**Diarrhoea and vomiting**

The school policy for D & V is 48 hours symptom free before returning to school.

If the pupil has just vomited – for example migraine related then the pupil can return after 24 hours, this is at the nurse's discretion.

**OUTBREAKS**

In the event of an outbreak of an infectious illness (defined as two or more cases of the same illness) the school nurse will, after discussion with GP, the Head, Head of Boarding, and any relevant outside agencies, implement any other infection control measures deemed necessary both to provide optimum care and to arrest the spread of the illness.

## **Guidelines in the event of an outbreak of a communicable illness**

### Definition

A communicable illness is an illness that can spread from one person to another by a variety of means: e.g., droplet, touch, body fluids. The most likely illnesses to cause an outbreak in a school situation are influenza, gastro-intestinal infections (e.g., norovirus) chicken pox and Covid19.

In a hospital situation an outbreak is defined as two or more cases of the same infection within 24 hours. This would be a good starting point to work from in school, but the school nurse will monitor all infectious cases carefully. If there is cause for concern the outbreak policy will be implemented.

Outbreaks will be discussed with the Head, relevant staff and UKHSA; their advice will be taken about notifying parents and staff

Boarding pupils who develop symptoms of an infectious illness can be nursed in the health centre during the school day 08:00 -17:00, and isolated from other boarders. Universal precautions will be used. If appropriate boarders will be sent home or to their guardians if there is a prolonged illness such as chicken pox. This is largely due to the fact there is no nurse cover overnight.

Day Pupils who start to show signs of the illness at school will be sent home following assessment by the school nurse. Their parents will be advised that they should not return to school until they are fully recovered and free from infection. They should consult their own General Practitioner. However, if there are family members who have contracted a virulent infection, then pupils may be advised against attending school. The school nurse will advise in individual situations. Guidelines on how long a child should be absent from school are dependent on the illness. This information will be identified using the UKHSA guidelines.

Staff should NOT attend school if they are showing signs of the illness to reduce the spread of infection. Resident staff should remain in their accommodation and refrain from working until fully recovered.

When the outbreak is deemed to be over, the school nurse will liaise with the cleaning manager to arrange a thorough deep clean of all affected areas. There should also be a review of the situation to assess where improvements can be made in the handling of outbreaks.

Karen Antoine  
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