



Introduction

The aim of this policy is to provide the School community with guidance related to the potential outbreak of infections. Awareness of steps that can be taken to prevent the spread of infection and the requirement for preparedness are fundamental to infection control. This policy has been written following guidance from NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

Due to the high density of adults and children in school buildings, infections are likely to spread rapidly. Young children in particular may have no residual immunity, and therefore could be amongst the groups worst affected. It is important that the School community is prepared for the occurrence of any outbreaks.

Planning and Preparing

Wellington's programme of pastoral care includes promoting positive health choices and good personal hygiene. School staff consistently promote positive health messages through Personal and Social Education (PSE) in the Senior School and Health and Wellbeing lessons in the Junior School, as well as in other areas across the curriculum. Pastoral staff will also have conversations with pupils on an individual basis as required.

In the event of an outbreak, the School will remain open unless a decision to close is made by the Head, or in his absence, a member of the Senior Management Team. If a decision is made to close the School in advance, this information will be posted on the School's Facebook page and parents will be contacted directly through Groupcall.

In the event of the School becoming aware that a pupil has an infectious illness, a member of staff will direct their parents to seek the appropriate medical advice through their GP, pharmacist or NHS 24. The School will ask the pupil to remain at home and parents should stay in contact with the School to provide information during the period of absence. Members of staff should also follow the same procedure if they suspect they have an infectious illness. Please see the Infection Control section below for guidance related to specific infections.

Infection Control

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

- Infected people can pass a virus through droplets when coughing or sneezing
- Through direct contact with another person through touch, such as shaking hands
- By touching surfaces like door handles and tables that have been touched by an infected person. 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
- Wash your hands after going to the toilet, handling animals and working with soil

- Wash your hands before preparing or eating food
- Minimise contact between your hands and mouth/nose unless you have recently washed your hands
- Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing. If possible, use a tissue and dispose of this straight away
- Do not attend school if you think you have an infectious illness

In order to prevent the spread of infections in school, we follow the guidelines set by NHS Ayrshire and Arran regarding the recommended period of time that pupils should be absent from school and which health professionals (if any) individuals should consult. The School works closely with the Health Protection Team (HPT) and will seek advice from designated health professionals where required.

Please find a summary below of the most common conditions, the recommended period of absence and the guidance on who to contact (if applicable).

Diarrhoea and Vomiting Illness		
Infection	Recommended time to be kept away from school/early years setting	Who to Contact
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	48 hours from last episode	Seek advice from GP or Pharmacist if required. School will contact local HPT if there is a cluster of cases.
E-Coli 1571, Typhoid (Enteric Fever) and Shigella	School will seek advice from local HPT regarding length of absence. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT
Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis	48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea	School will contact local HPT

Respiratory Infections		
Infection	Recommended time to be kept away from school/early years setting	Who to Contact
Covid-19/Suspected Covid-19	There is no requirement to remain at home unless the individual has fever or is unwell. Can return when fever has resolved and/or when feeling well	School will contact the local HPT if there is a cluster of cases
Influenza	Remain at home until fully recovered	Seek advice from GP or Pharmacist. School will contact local HPT if there is a cluster of cases
Tuberculosis	School will seek advice from local HPT. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT
Whooping Cough	School will seek advice from local HPT. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT

Rashes and Skin Infections		
Infection	Recommended time to be kept away from school/early years setting	Who to Contact
Athlete's Foot	None	GP/Pharmacist
Chicken Pox	Until all spots have crusted over - normally around 5 days	Seek advice from GP/Pharmacist for individual cases. School will contact local HPT if there is a cluster of cases
Cold Sores (Herpes Simplex)	None	GP/Pharmacist
German Measles (Rubella)	School will seek advice from local HPT. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT
Hand, Foot and Mouth	None	School will contact local HPT if there is a cluster of cases
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted over or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment	GP/Pharmacist
Measles	School will seek advice from local HPT. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT
Ringworm	Exclusion not normally required	GP/Pharmacist
Roseola (Infantum)	None	GP/Pharmacist
Scabies	School will seek advice from local HPT. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT
Scarlet Fever	School will seek advice from local HPT. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT
Slapped Cheek/Fifth Disease/Parvovirus B19	None (once rash has developed)	GP/Pharmacist
Shingles	Until the rash isn't weeping or can't be covered. School will seek further advice from local HPT	School will contact local HPT
Warts and Verrucae	None	GP/Pharmacist

Other Infections		
Infection	Recommended time to be kept away from school/early years setting	Who to Contact
Conjunctivitis	None	Seek advice from GP/Pharmacist for individual cases. School will contact local HPT if there is a cluster of cases
Diphtheria	School will seek advice from local HPT. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT
Glandular Fever	None	GP/Pharmacist
Head Lice	None	GP/Pharmacist
Hepatitis A	School will seek advice from local HPT. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT
Hepatitis B or C	None	School will contact local HPT
HIV/AIDS	None	School will contact local HPT
Meningococcal Meningitis or Septicemia	Until recovered	School will contact local HPT
Viral Meningitis	None	School will contact local HPT
MRSA	None	Seek advice from GP/Pharmacist for individual cases. School will contact local HPT if there is a cluster of cases
Mumps	School will seek advice from local HPT. Individual to remain at home pending further guidance	School will contact local HPT
Worm Infestations	None	GP/Pharmacist
Tonsillitis	None	GP/Pharmacist

If a child is unwell in school, the following action will be taken:

Nursery – the key worker will contact the parent or emergency contact in the event of the parent being unavailable. Arrangements will be made for the child to be collected.

Junior School – the pupil's class teacher will inform a member of the admin staff and the Deputy Head or Head of the Junior School if a child feels unwell. The admin staff will contact the parent or emergency contact in the event of the parent being unavailable. Arrangements will be made for the child to be collected.

Senior School – if a pupil feels unwell they must report to the main office in Carleton Turrets. The staff in the office will send the pupil to see Mrs Shrinivas, our School Auxiliary, in Craigweil House. Mrs Shrinivas will make a decision as to whether the pupil should return to class or be sent home. At this stage, if the pupil is being sent home, Mrs Shrinivas will call a parent or emergency contact to collect the pupil. The admin staff will be informed and a member of the Senior Management Team may be consulted if necessary. Pupils will not be allowed to leave school without being collected by a parent or designated emergency contact.



If a child needs to be absent from school due to illness, parents should keep the school informed as to the nature of the infection and the likely duration of absence, especially after obtaining medical advice through a GP or other health practitioner.

Please report absence by contacting the school in either of the following ways:

- Call 01292 269321 and speak to the admin staff in either the Junior School or Senior School
- Email absence@wellingtonschool.org

Support for Pupils and Staff

The School has a number of qualified first aiders who will be able to support pupils and staff before recommending any further action. Staff are also trained on how to administer an EpiPen on an annual basis and are aware of allergens and any pupil with specific needs related to allergies.

Useful Links

NHS Inform: www.nhsinform.scot

NHS Ayrshire and Arran: www.nhsaa.net

NHS 24: www.nhs24.scot/Our-Services/when-to-phone-111 (Call 111)

Important Contact Details

Mr Alistair McDougall

Assistant Head Teacher (Pastoral)

Tel: 01292 269321

Email: amcdougall@wellingtonschool.org

Health Protection Team

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Tel: 01292 885858 / Out of Hours 01563 521133

A McDougall

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