



Barton Primary School

Reviewed on:	May 2020
Staff Responsibility	Headteacher
Governor responsibility	FGB
Signed by Chair	

Infection Control Policy

BARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and in the event of an outbreak of an infection such as pandemic influenza or any contagious illness.

PRINCIPLES

The school recognises that infections such as influenza pandemics 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.

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. We recognise that closing the school may be necessary in exceptional circumstances in order to control an infection. However we will strive to remain open unless advised otherwise. Good pastoral care includes promoting healthy living and good hand hygiene. School staff will give pupils positive messages about health and well-being through lessons and through conversations with pupils.

PLANNING AND PREPARING

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil or member of staff has a significant infectious illness we would direct their parents to report to their GP and inform Public Health England (PHE)-Wessex on 0344 2253861.

During an outbreak of an infectious illness such as pandemic influenza 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 Health Protection Agency. It is likely that school will remain open 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 children. Students will be asked to complete work at home.

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 within a close distance.
- 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 students 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, unless you have just washed your hands.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not attend school if you think you may have an infectious illness.

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

Minimise sources of contamination

- We will ensure relevant staff have 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.

To control the spread of infection

- We ensure good hand washing procedures (toilet, handling animals, soil, food)
- Children are encouraged to blow and wipe their own noses when necessary and to dispose of the soiled tissues hygienically.
- We wear protective clothing when dealing with accidents. (e.g. gloves)

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

Detailed information about many conditions is available at <http://www.hpa.org.uk/>.

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

It is important to note that the school **are unable to authorise** absence on medical grounds or illness for conditions where the guidelines state that no period of absence is recommended; e.g. head lice

DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING ILLNESS:

Illness / condition - Recommended period of absence

Diarrhoea and vomiting - 48 hours from the last episode

E Coli 1571 - Exclusion for 48 hours for 48 hours from last episode and school to consult with PHE

Typhoid and paratyphoid (Enteric fever) - Exclusion for 48 hours from last episode and school to consult with PHE

Shigella (Dysentery) - Exclusion for 48 hours from last episode and school to consult with PHE

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS:

Coronavirus (Covid 19) – As per on-going government Guidance as advised on Gov.uk website:
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

RASHES AND SKIN INFECTIONS:

Illness / condition - Recommended period of absence

Athlete's foot - none

Chicken Pox - 5 days from onset of rash/ until spots have crusted

Cold sores (Herpes) - None

German measles (Rubella) - 5 days from onset of rash

Hand, Foot and Mouth - None

Impetigo - Until lesions are crusted or healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics.

Measles - 5 days from onset of rash

Ringworm - Until treatment is commenced

Roseola (infantum) - None

Scabies - Pupil can return after the first treatment

Scarlet fever – 24 hours after commencing anti-biotics

Slapped cheek - None

Warts and Verrucae - None

Shingles - Exclude only if the rash is weeping and cannot be covered.

OTHER INFECTIONS:

Illness / condition - Recommended period of absence

Conjunctivitis - None

Diphtheria - Exclusion essential and school to consult with PHE

Glandular Fever - None

Head lice - None

Hepatitis A - Exclusion until 7 days after onset of jaundice (or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice) and school to consult with PHE

Hepatitis B or C - None

HIV / AIDS - None

Meningococcal meningitis / septicaemia - Until recovered

Bacterial Meningitis - Until recovered

Viral Meningitis - None

MRSA - None

Mumps - 5 days from the onset of swollen glands

Threadworms - None

Tonsillitis - None

Illness / condition - Recommended period of absence

Influenza - Until recovered

Tuberculosis - Exclusion and school to consult with PHE

Whooping cough - 5 days from commencing anti-biotics or 21 days from onset of illness if no anti-biotic treatment has been prescribed. In the latter situation we will require a doctor's note.

During outbreaks of diarrhoea and/or vomiting the following should be actioned:

- The use of play dough should be suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the play dough used prior to the outbreak is disposed of;
- The use of play sand should be suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the sand used prior to the outbreak is disposed of;

- The use of water should be suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the water and water toys should be thoroughly cleaned prior to use.
- The use of soft toys should be suspended whilst they are adequately washed.
- Shared equipment such as building bricks etc. should be steam cleaned in affected classrooms.
- Table tops and door handles should be steam cleaned in affected classrooms.
- Children who have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting should not be included in cooking for 48 hours.

If a child is unwell in school children should wait in the staff work area with adult supervision until they are collected by their parents or carers. If close personal care is required the child will be moved to the first aid room (or meeting room) and appropriately trained staff should use appropriate equipment such as gloves, aprons and surgical masks where required. The room will require steam cleaning following use.

To prevent the persistence and further spread of infection

- Ask parents to keep their child at home if they have an infection, and to inform the school as to the nature of the infection.
- Remind parents not to bring a child to school who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack.
- Staff are expected to follow the same guidance.

Farm visits

Hand washing is essential throughout the visit and particularly after coming into contact with live stock.

SUPPORT FOR STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND CARERS

The school has a number of Qualified First Aiders who assess pupils and staff before recommending further action. Individuals who are believed to have an infectious illness are sent home and are advised to contact their GP or local hospital.