



## **Pandemic Policy**

(This Policy also includes the EYFS)

PLEASE REFER TO THE LOCAL COVID POLICY FOR SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND SPECIFIC INFORMATION

### **Aim of the policy**

To ensure the health and safety of the whole school community in the event of a pandemic and to provide a procedure if a pandemic occurs. Downe House Riyadh will keep up to date on the effect of a pandemic on schools in the country by regularly checking the Ministry of Health website and taking advice from the Ministry of Education or other relevant government bodies.

In the event of any identified epidemic or pandemic we would seek information from the Ministry of Education and give advice accordingly.

### **General hygiene guidelines**

We advise all members of the school community to:

**Catch it** – germs spread easily. Always use a tissue and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

**Bin it** – germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.

Tissues must be put in the bin. Class bins should be placed near the door so the caretakers have easy access to empty them regularly.

**Kill it** – hands can transfer germs to every surface they touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can

## **Control of Infection Policy (This Policy Also Includes The EYFS)**

## PLEASE REFER TO THE COVID POLICY FOR SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND SPECIFIC INFORMATION

### **Control of Infection:**

#### **Policy Guidance**

This guidance is applicable to all employees and / or contractors of the school who undertake activities associated with infection control.

To ensure that the school prevents the spread of infection by:-

- Maintaining a clean environment
- Practising good standards of personal hygiene

Guidance:

The Principal, Deputy and School Nurse will be responsible for the implementation and review of this guidance.

- Good hygiene practice will be followed by all those involved with:
  - General cleaning
  - Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages
  - Clinical waste
  - Laundry
  - Use of personal protective equipment
  - Bites, injuries and sharps:
    - Where skin is broken, make the wound bleed and wash thoroughly with water.
    - Report to the Health Centre for treatment

#### **Animals:**

- Animals can carry infections, so always wash hands after any contact.
- When visiting farms check hand washing facilities and ensure that children do not eat or drink whilst touring the farm, or put fingers into mouths etc. Use waterproof plasters to protect any cuts or grazes not covered by clothes

#### **Vulnerable Children:**

- Some medical conditions make children vulnerable to infections that would not normally be serious by reducing immunity. These may include cancers and those on steroids.
- Such individuals are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, Parvovirus B19 (slapped cheek) and measles. If they are exposed contact the School Nurse immediately.
- Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox and therefore anyone who

has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable if they have had contact with a case of shingles.

If in any doubt seek advice from the School Nurse.

### **Pregnancy:**

If a pregnant woman develops a rash or is in direct contact with someone with a potentially infectious rash then the Senior First Aider should be contacted immediately.

Points to consider include:

- German measles (rubella). If a pregnant woman comes into contact with German measles she should inform her doctor and ante-natal carer immediately.
- Slapped cheek disease (Parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn child. Any potential exposure should be reported to the ante-natal carer.
- Chickenpox can affect the pregnancy if a woman has not already had the infection. Any potential exposure should be reported to the GP and ante-natal carer.

### **Immunisations:**

Immunisation status should always be checked at school entry and at the time of any vaccination. Any immunisations that have been missed should be addressed via the School Office.

### **Influenza**

Influenza can spread quickly from sick staff and students to others who are nearby in an educational setting. Seasonal influenza, also known as "The Flu", is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the flu viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. Staff and students are often in close contact, sharing the same space, supplies and equipment for long periods of time. As a result, there is an increased risk that staff and students will spread flu and other illnesses to each other. Flu spreads mostly by droplets containing flu viruses travelling through air (up to 2 metres) when a sick person coughs or sneezes. Less often, people might get flu by touching surfaces or objects with flu viruses on them and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine. Vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctor visits, missed school days and hospitalizations due to flu illness. The community should practise everyday preventive actions at all times to protect themselves and their community from flu and other respiratory infections.

Pandemic Flu is not seasonal flu. A Flu pandemic occurs when a new flu virus that is different from seasonal flu viruses emerge and spread quickly between people causing illness worldwide. Most people will lack immunity to the pandemic flu virus. Pandemic flu can be more severe and cause more deaths than seasonal flu. Because it is a new

virus a vaccine may not be available right away. A pandemic could therefore overwhelm normal operations in an educational setting.

#### Roles and Responsibilities (Before Pandemic)

Parents/Guardians are responsible for:

- Keeping their child at home if they have flu like symptoms and inform the school of the student's condition.
- Always promote daily practice of everyday preventive action even at home.

The school have the responsibility to:

- Always promote daily practice of everyday preventive actions.
- Provide flu prevention supplies when needed.
- Develop a method for tracking flu related staff and student absences.
- Plan ways to continue education students if schools are closed.
- Identify steps for re-opening the school.
- Follow the instructions and guidelines from local government organisations.

The school medical team have a responsibility to:

- Identify space that can be used to separate sick patients (If needed).
- Follow the instructions and guidelines from local government organisations
- Plan for staff and student absences.
- Develop a method for tracking flu related staff and student absences
- Communicate with SLT/SMT if more than average influenza like symptom are treated in the clinic.

#### Roles and Responsibilities (During Pandemic/Lockdown)

The School have the responsibility to:

- Postpone or cancel extracurricular activities or large events.
- Discourage staff and students from gathering or socializing in other places after the school day has finished.
- Put into action strategies for continuing education and essential student services.
- Provide flu prevention supplies for staff who visit the school during lockdown.

The school medical team have a responsibility to:

- Track staff and student absenteeism related to flu like symptoms.
- Separate those who become sick at school from those who are well.
- Provide assistance remotely in regards with medical records, medicine pick-ups etc.

#### Roles and Responsibilities (After Pandemic)

The School have the responsibility to:

- Deep clean a sterilise the whole school before the site is opened up after lockdown.

The school medical team have a responsibility to:

- Screening students and staff that are coming back to school after lockdown.

## Policy History

Date of adoption of this policy	August 2022
Date of last review of this policy	August 2022
Date for next review of this policy	June 2023
Policy owner (SLT)	Head of Operations
Policy owner (Chair of the Board)	Board