



Infection Control Policy

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Governors Committee Responsibility:

Resources

Date Approved:

Summer 2021

Review Period:

Annually

Next Review Date:

Summer 2022

The Limpsfield Grange Values:

At Limpsfield Grange we believe in working together to make a difference.

We are a tolerant community; we accept value and understand others.

We care for all members of our community without judgement.

We are responsible for our own learning, behaviour and actions.

We accept that sometimes things go wrong. We work together to take responsibility for our mistakes and for putting things right.

We are a respectful community and we treat others as we would like to be treated, even if they have different views and opinions to our own.

We understand that good behaviour helps us to prepare for life beyond Limpsfield Grange.

We are positive and resilient. We celebrate difference in everything that we do.

We are all proud to be part of the Limpsfield Grange community.

July 2017

Limpsfield Grange School Infection Control Policy

Background and rationale

This policy incorporates Public Health England guidance [Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities](#) and Department for Education guidance [COVID-19 infection prevention and control](#). Limpsfield Grange School wrote this policy in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

Schools are common sites for transmission of infections. Students are particularly susceptible because:

- They have immature immune systems
- They have close contact with other children
They sometimes have no or incomplete vaccinations
- They have a poor understanding of hygiene practices

Aims of the policy

This policy aims to provide information for Limpsfield Grange School staff, Governors and wider members of the school community to manage a range of common and important childhood infections in school. It includes the principles of infection prevention and control to enable safe working during the coronavirus (COVID19) outbreak.

Scope

The Limpsfield Grange School Infection Control policy applies to all staff, Governors and wider members of the school community.

Infection

Infections in children are common due to the immaturity of a child's immune system. Children often have close contact with their friends and lack good hygiene habits, making it easier for infections to be passed on. Many diseases can spread before the individual displays symptoms (during the infectious period).

Infection prevention and control measures aim to interrupt the cycle of infection by promoting the routine use of good standards of hygiene so that transmission of infection is reduced overall. This is usually through:

- immunisation of students and staff
- good hand washing
- making sure the environment is kept clean

Where a case of infection is known, measures aim to reduce or eliminate the risk of spread through information and prompt exclusion of a case.

Infections are spread in many different ways.

Respiratory spread	Contact with cough or other secretions from an infected person such as influenza. This can happen by being near the infected person when they cough and then breathe in the organism; or by picking up the organism from an infected item, for example, a used tissue or on an object in the environment, and then touching your nose or mouth.
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Direct contact spread:	By direct contact with the infecting organism, for example, contact with the skin during contact sports such as rugby and in gyms, like impetigo or staphylococcal infections
Gastrointestinal spread:	Resulting from contact with contaminated food or water (hepatitis A), contact with infected faeces or unwashed hands after using the toilet (typhoid fever).
Blood borne virus spread:	By contact with infected blood or body fluids, for example, while attending to a bleeding person or injury with a used needle (hepatitis B). Human mouths are inhabited by a wide variety of organisms, some of which can be transmitted by bites. Human bites resulting in puncture or breaking of the skin are potential sources of exposure to blood borne infections, therefore, it is essential that they are managed promptly.

Transmission of coronavirus mainly occurs via respiratory droplets generated during breathing, talking, coughing and sneezing. These droplets can directly infect the respiratory tracts of other people if there is close contact. They also infect others indirectly. This happens when the droplets get onto and contaminate surfaces which are then touched and introduced into the mouth or eyes of an uninfected person.

In school preventing the spread of coronavirus involves preventing:

- Direct transmission, for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing
- Indirect transmission, for instance, touching contaminated surfaces

Prevention and control

Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting and respiratory disease. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels are provided.

- All staff and students are advised to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food and after touching animals.
- Staff and students are advised to cover all cuts and abrasions with a waterproof dressing.
- Students and adults are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue and wash hands after using or disposing of tissues. Spitting is discouraged.
- Staff are advised to wear disposable gloves and plastic aprons and face masks (from the school's limited PPE stock) if there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood or body fluids during an activity, including the administration of First Aid.
- Staff must wear face masks, protective disposable gloves and plastic aprons (from the school's limited PPE stock) when dealing with any suspected coronavirus case on the school site.

Bites

- If a bite does not break the skin: clean with soap and water and no further action is needed.
- If a bite breaks the skin: clean immediately with soap and running water. Record incident in accident book. Seek medical advice as soon as possible (on the same day) to treat potential infection, to protect against hepatitis B, for reassurance about HIV

Cleaning blood and body fluid spills

Any staff cleaning up spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges must wear PPE.

Spillages should be cleaned up using a product which combines detergent and disinfectant (and ensure it is effective against both bacteria and viruses). Disposable paper towels or cloths should be used to clean up blood and body fluid spills and must be safely disposed of after use.

Sanitary facilities

Good hygiene practices depend on adequate facilities. Hand basins equipped with warm running water along with a mild liquid soap, mainly wall mounted with disposable cartridges, are available across the school site. Disposable paper towels are situated next to basins in wall mounted dispensers, together with a nearby waste paper bin. The majority of toilets have automatic hand driers.

Toilet paper is available in each cubicle.

Suitable sanitary disposal facilities are provided in female staff and students' toilets.

Children with continence aids

Students who use continence aids (like continence pads) are encouraged to be as independent as possible. The principles of basic hygiene are applied by both students and staff involved in the management of these aids.

Dealing with contaminated clothing

Clothing of either the student or the first-aider may become contaminated with blood or body fluids. Clothing should be removed as soon as possible and placed in a plastic bag and sent home with the student. In the case of residential students the clothing should be washed separately in a washing machine, using a pre-wash cycle, on the hottest temperature that the clothes will tolerate.

COVID-19 prevention and control

A range of approaches and actions should be employed to prevent and control infections. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell
- Cleaning hands often
- Practicing good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it)
- Cleaning surfaces that are touched frequently
- Minimising contact and mixing between people who are infected and people who are not.
- Using Personal protective equipment (PPE) when appropriate
- Implementing social distancing measures
- Removing soft furnishing and resources to ensure effective cleaning of hard to clean areas
- Reducing the use of shared resources
- Ensure that rooms are well ventilated and that air flow is increased by opening windows and students spend more time outdoors
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace

In the case of a suspected outbreak of infection

An outbreak or incident may be defined as:

- An incident in which 2 or more people experiencing a similar illness are linked in time or place

- A greater than expected rate of infection compared with the usual background rate for the place and time where the outbreak has occurred

When to report

Any students or staff showing symptoms should inform the Headteacher (or in her absence the Deputy Headteacher) who will contact the local Health Protection Team as soon as possible to discuss the situation and agree if any actions are needed. The Headteacher (or Deputy Headteacher in her absence) will also contact the Area School Support Team (South East) in the event of an outbreak of infection.

The Headteacher (or Deputy Headteacher) will collate the information below as it will help to inform the size and nature of the outbreak:

- total numbers affected (staff and students)
- symptoms
- date(s) when symptoms started
- number of classes affected.

For suspected cases of infectious illness where there is uncertainty it's an outbreak, the school will call the local Health Protection Team. For suspected cases of COVID-19, the school will follow the Guidance for Childcare and Educational Settings in the Management of COVID-19 Flowchart https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/228136/Flowchart-School-response-to-suspected-or-confirmed-cases-of-Covid-19-coronavirus-v1-10-June-2020.pdf

How to report

Limpsfield Grange School will telephone their local Health Protection Team as soon as possible to report any serious or unusual illness particularly for:

- | | |
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| • Escherichia coli (VTEC) (also called E.coli 0157) or E coli VTEC infection | • Tuberculosis |
| • Food poisoning | • Typhoid |
| • Hepatitis | • Whooping cough (also called pertussis) |
| • Measles, Mumps, Rubella (rubella is also called German measles) | • COVID-19 |
| • Meningitis | |

Diseases notifiable (to Local Authority Proper Officers) under the Health Protection (Notification) Reg 2010:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Acute encephalitis | • Malaria |
| • Acute meningitis | • Measles |
| • Acute poliomyelitis | • Meningococcal septicaemia |
| • Acute infectious hepatitis | • Mumps |
| • Anthrax | • Plague |
| • Botulism | • Rabies |
| • Brucellosis | • Rubella |
| • Cholera | • SARS |
| • Diphtheria | • Smallpox |
| • Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever) | • Tetanus |
| • Food poisoning | • Tuberculosis |
| • Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) | • Typhus |

- Infectious bloody diarrhoea
- Invasive group A streptococcal disease and scarlet fever
- Legionnaires' disease
- Leprosy
- Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)
- Whooping cough
- Yellow fever
- Covid-19

For more information regarding the management of infectious diseases please refer to Public Health England advice on specific diseases and infections - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases>

Immunisation

Immunisation is checked at school entry and at the time of any vaccination. Parents are encouraged to have their child immunised.

Cleaning the environment

Effective cleaning of the environment, including furniture and equipment, is an important function in the control of infection. The school has cleaning schedules clearly describing the range of cleaning activities needed, the frequency of cleaning activities and who will carry out the cleaning activities.

Cleaning standards are monitored regularly by the school and cleaning staff employed by Limpsfield Grange are appropriately trained and have access to Personal Protective Equipment.

Cleaning contract

Solo provide the cleaning at Limpsfield Grange as part of the Surrey County Council contract.

Essential elements of a comprehensive cleaning contract include daily, weekly and periodic cleaning schedules, based on national guidance and Surrey County Council specifications.

Cleaning solutions should be stored in accordance with Control of Substances of Hazardous to Health (COSHH), and cleaning equipment changed and decontaminated regularly. Consideration should be given to situations where additional cleaning will be required including during term time (for example in the event of an outbreak) and how the school might carry this out.

The School Business Manager and Premises Manager monitor cleaning standards and discuss any issues with cleaning staff. The contract is monitored by StrictlyEducation4S.

Cleaning blood and body fluid spills

All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva and vomit should be cleaned up immediately, by staff wearing Personal Protective Equipment. Spillages should be cleaned using a product which combines detergent and disinfectant, to ensure it is effective against both bacteria and viruses. Disposable paper towels or cloths must be used to clean up blood and body fluid spills, and disposed of after use.

COVID-19 advice - cleaning and waste disposal

All objects and areas which are visibly contaminated with body fluids must be cleaned using disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads. To clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings, a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million or a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.) should be used. Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below. Splashes should be avoided.

When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example, upholstered furniture and mattresses, steam cleaning should be used. Any items that are heavily contaminated with body fluids and cannot be cleaned by washing should be disposed of.

Waste from possible coronavirus cases and cleaning of areas where staff or students with possible coronavirus have been located should be disposed of as follows:

- Items be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full.
- The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.
- The double bin bag containing contaminated waste should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage in the basement until the individual's test results are known.

Waste should be stored safely in the basement which is not accessible to students. The waste should not be put in communal waste areas until negative test results are known, or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

- If the individual tests negative, this can be put in with the normal waste
- If the individual tests positive, then store it for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste

Enhanced cleaning during an outbreak of infection

In the event of an outbreak of infection then Limpsfield Grange will ensure that the school is cleaned to an enhanced standard in line with Government guidance to help reduce transmission of the virus. Procedures are in place for a higher level of more frequent cleaning during this pandemic to include door handles, taps, toilet handles and other communal areas where surfaces can easily become contaminated such as handrails.

Areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.

Staff welfare

All staff are required to undergo a full Occupational Health check before starting employment with Limpsfield Grange School; this includes ensuring they are up to date with immunisations, including Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR).

Exclusion

Staff employed at Limpsfield Grange School have the same rules regarding exclusion due to infectious illness applied to them as are applied to the children. They may return to work when they are no longer infectious, provided they feel well enough to do so. With regard to the coronavirus Limpsfield Grange will follow Public Health England advice on [stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infections](#).

Pregnant staff

If a pregnant woman develops a rash or is in direct contact with someone with a rash who is potentially infectious, she should consult her doctor or midwife.

Chickenpox can affect the pregnancy if a woman has not already had the infection. The GP and midwife should be informed promptly. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox therefore anyone who has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable to the infection if they have close contact with a case of shingles.

Measles during pregnancy can result in early delivery or even loss of the baby. If a pregnant woman is exposed, the midwife should be informed immediately. All female staff under the age of 25 years, working with young children, should have evidence of 2 doses of MMR vaccine or a positive history of measles. If a pregnant woman comes into contact with German measles she should inform her GP and midwife

immediately. The infection may affect the developing baby if the woman is not immune and is exposed in early pregnancy.

Slapped cheek disease (Parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn child if exposed early in pregnancy. If exposed to Parvovirus B19 the pregnant woman should inform their midwife promptly.

Staff involved in the handling of food

Catering staff and other staff involved in the handling of food may present a particular risk to the health of students and staff if they become infected or have close contact with diseases that can be transmitted to others via the medium of food or drink. These diseases commonly affect the gastrointestinal system (stomach and bowel) and usually cause diarrhoea or vomiting, or both.

Catering staff and other staff involved in the handling of food suffering from such diseases must be excluded from all food handling activity in the school until advised by the local Environmental Health Officer that they are clear to return to work. There are legal powers for the formal exclusion of such cases but usually voluntary exclusion will suffice with sickness certificates from the GP, as necessary.

Staff should not be present at the school if they are currently suffering from diarrhoea or vomiting, or both.

The School Business Manager will contact the local Environmental Health Department immediately that they are informed of a member of staff engaged in the handling of food has become aware that he or she is suffering from, or is the carrier of, any infection likely to cause food poisoning.

This policy should be made clear to the person in charge of the kitchen and all catering staff at the time of appointment. Food handlers are required by law to inform their employer immediately if they are suffering from:

- Typhoid fever
- Paratyphoid fever
- Other salmonella infections
- Dysentery
- Shigellosis
- Diarrhoea (cause of which has not been established)
- Infective jaundice
- Staphylococcal infections likely to cause food poisoning like impetigo, septic skin lesions, exposed infected wounds, boils
- E. coli VTEC infection

COVID-19 advice

Staff testing: Access to testing is already available to all essential workers. Limsfield Grange School can book tests through an online digital portal and there is also an option for employees to book tests directly on the portal.

Clinically extremely vulnerable adults and children were advised to take extra precautions during the peak of the pandemic in England. This is known as 'shielding'. The government is advising that they do not need to shield at the moment. This is because the rates of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community have fallen significantly.

There is specific guidance on what will happen if there is a local lockdown in our area. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-restrictions-areas-with-an-outbreak-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

Clinically extremely vulnerable children should attend education settings in line with the wider guidance on reopening of schools <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> and guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

If transmission of COVID-19 increases individuals could be advised to shield again if the situation changes and there is an increase in the transmission of COVID-19 in the community.

The school will follow advice from the Department for Education and Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

A Limpsfield Grange School risk assessment is in place to assess the risk of a coronavirus outbreak within our setting and the control measures to minimise this risk. This risk assessment will be reviewed on a regular basis and in light with any change in guidance.

In the event of a member of staff or student has suspected or confirmed COVID-19, the school will follow the COVID-19 flowchart https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/228136/Flowchart-School-response-to-suspected-or-confirmed-cases-of-Covid-19-coronavirus-v1-10-June-2020.pdf

After contacting the PHE Surrey and Sussex Health Protection Team Limpsfield Grange School will notify the Area Schools Officer when there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school via the school.relationships@surreycc.gov.uk email address.

Please refer to Surrey County Council's guidance on cleaning and disinfection, social distancing, PPE and testing.

Pets and animal contact

Please refer to Public Health England on pet and animal contact <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-8-pets-and-animal-contact>

Local health protection contact information

Support is available from your local Health Protection Team (HPT) to prevent and reduce the effect of diseases and chemical and radiation hazards.

Health Protection Teams provide support to health professionals, including:

- local disease surveillance
- alert systems
- investigating and managing health protection incidents
- national and local action plans for infectious diseases

PHE Surrey and Sussex Health Protection Team (South East),
County Hall, Chart Way,

Horsham,

RH12 1XA PHE.sshpu@nhs.net Phone: [0344 225 3861](tel:03442253861)

Out of hours: 0844 967 0069

Useful links

Exclusion Table:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/789369/Exclusion_table.pdf

Covid-19 Public Health England Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Guidance for full opening of schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Public Health England pet and animal contact

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-8-pets-and-animal-contact>

Public Health England advice on specific diseases and infections:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases>

NHS Immunisation information:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/>

Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/659/contents/made>

Children and Family Health Surrey school nursing

<https://childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk/services/school-nursing-general>

Public Health England School Zone- e-Bug stop germs spreading with fun e-Bug resources

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>

RIDDOR

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/>

Related documents

- Animals in School Policy
- Attendance Management Policy and Procedure
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Disciplinary and Capability Policy
- Dogs in School Policy
- Equalities Policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Staff Behaviour Policy
- Surrey County Council Cleaning and Sanitising Guidance for Schools and Educational Settings May 2020
- Surrey County Council Social Distancing Guidance and Signposting to Resources for Schools and Educational Settings May 2020

Review

The Governing Body of Limpsfield
Grange School adopted this policy on:

It will be reviewed on:

Signed

Dated
