



## **INFECTION CONTROL POLICY**

### **Policy Statement**

Infections are readily spread in close knit communities such as schools. Dulwich College is committed to the minimisation of this risk.

The Medical Centre staff work within the guidance of <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities> the School Health Matters (2010) document, follow the Health Protection Agency guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-4-what-to-do-if-you-suspect-an-outbreak-of-infection>, and liaise with South London Health Protection Team and Public Health England.

In addition the College and the Medical Centre will work within any guidance issued by HM Government or Public Health England concerning an epidemic or pandemic and take regard of all regulations relevant to schools issued in connection therewith.

### **Practice and Procedures**

The College continually strives to manage practices and to conform to guidelines in the following areas (which are addressed in this and other medical policies):

#### **National immunisation schedules**

The aim of the national immunisation schedule is to provide protection against vaccine preventable infections. (see Immunisation Policy)

#### **Epidemic / Infectious Diseases** (see Epidemic Policy)

Outbreaks or cases of notifiable diseases are reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the South East London Health Protection Team (T: 03443 262052). Where necessary a pupil or pupils will be excluded from school or otherwise isolated in accordance with relevant guidance. In this situation the parents / guardian will be informed immediately and arrangements for collection or transfer made as soon as possible. The Medical Centre staff in conjunction with the School Medical Officer are responsible to the College Leadership Team for co-ordinating the College's response to any epidemic.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/public-health/infection-winter/schools-and-nurseries-guidance/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### **Cross Infection** (see also Bodily Fluid & Good Hygiene Policy)

Wherever possible the College endeavours to bring safe procedure to the attention of all members of the College community although ultimately it is the responsibility of individuals to ensure their own safety. Procedures should be followed at all times which ensure that the risk of cross infection is kept to a minimum. These include:

- **Effective hand washing** This is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infection. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. Posters illustrating the correct way of hand washing are displayed throughout the College.
- **Tissues** Encouraging the use of tissues to cover mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing followed by hand washing. Where this is not possible the individual should sneeze into the inside of their elbow.
- **Clothing** Soiled laundry should be washed separately at the hottest temperature the fabric will tolerate. Non-latex gloves or other appropriate protective clothing should be worn when carrying out any first aid where bodily fluids are involved.
- **Cleaning** Routines should be followed as outlined in relevant guidance (and posters displayed around the College). Cleaning is of significant importance in the case of an epidemic.
- **Masks** The importance of mask wearing was highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic. Where appropriate and in accordance with relevant guidance masks should be worn in enclosed spaces and when in close contact with other members of the College community.
- **Bodily Fluid Spillages** (see Bodily Fluid and Good Hygiene Policy)
- **Sharps** (see Sharps Policy) Sharps should be discarded straight into a sharps bin which is collected by a specialist company on a regular basis. Equipment such as scissors used in dressings should be single use and disposed of in the sharps bin. **Sharps Injuries** Initially injuries should be dealt with by making the wound bleed, cleaning the area well with soap and water and applying an occlusive dressing. Thereafter the source of the sharp should be identified and advice sought from the School Medical Officer or the local Accident and Emergency department. **Reporting of Sharps Injuries** (see Sharps Policy) **Waste** All clinical waste should be disposed of in clinical waste bags. These bags are collected weekly by a specialist disposal company.