DULWICH COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1619

EPIDEMIC POLICY

Epidemic

An epidemic is a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at any particular time.

Policy Statement

In the event of an epidemic occurring at the College every effort will be made to contain and deal with the infection while adhering to advice issued by the UK Health Security Agency and / or South London Health Protection Team. Good hygiene will be encouraged in order to minimise the spread of the infection and keep disruption of normal school life to a minimum. The relevant and appropriate guidance will be implemented by staff and pupils.

Practice and Procedure

The Medical Centre staff in conjunction with the College Medical Officer are responsible to the College Leadership Team for co-ordinating the College's response to any epidemic.

The following response is implemented:

- Outbreaks or cases of notifiable or unusual diseases or symptoms (whether amongst pupils or staff) are reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the South London Health Protection Team (0300 303 0450) for discussion and advice.

- Staff feeling unwell or displaying symptoms (e.g. high temperature) are sent home and if appropriate advised to contact their GP or NHS 111.

- Pupils feeling unwell or displaying symptoms (e.g. high temperature) are sent to the Medical Centre. An assessment by Medical Centre staff is made and treatment offered as appropriate.

- Pupils who exhibit symptoms, which are confirmed on examination, remain at the Medical Centre, isolated from other pupils, until collected by their parents or guardians (whether boarders or day pupils). Parents of overseas boarders have a duty to ensure their son has a guardian in the UK who is able to take responsibility for his care in the case of an epidemic. All parents or guardians and advised to contact their GP.

- Boarders who cannot be collected by their parents or guardians are nursed in the senior boarding houses in consultation where possible with a GP from the Old Dairy Health Centre. One of the rooms in the Boarding House will be used as a temporary medical room and if necessary, will be used by a nurse for sleeping purposes.

- Nurses continue to work within their competencies in order to ensure safe working practices. On occasion it may be necessary to recruit nursing staff from reputable agencies so as to allow the Medical Centre staff to rest. Any agency nurse shall have a relevant disclosure & baring certificate.

- Precautions in relation to cross infection shall be implemented (see Infection Control Policy).

Useful Guidance

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-outbreaks-and-incidents

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Policy Owner:	Deputy Master Co-curricular, Operations and Partnerships
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