DULWICH COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1619

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.

In general, the Medical Centre staff work within the guidance of https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities and liaise with UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) South London Health Protection Team (SLHPT).

In addition, the College and the Medical Centre will work within any guidance issued by HM Government or the UK Health Security Agency 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).

- **Managing outbreaks and Incidents:** Outbreaks or cases of notifiable diseases are reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the UKHSA South London Health Protection Team (T: 0300 303 0450). 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 College Medical Officer are responsible to the College Leadership Team for co-ordinating the College's response to any epidemic (see Appendix 1). The College will act in accordance with all guidance in relation to any outbreaks including: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-outbreaks-and-incidents) (see Epidemic Policy).

Infection Prevention and Control

Wherever possible the College endeavours to bring safe procedures 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 and interrupt the train of transmission. These measures include:

- Hand hygiene**:** Effective hand washing 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. This

should be done especially after coughing and sneezing, blowing your nose, after using the toilet and before eating. Posters illustrating the correct way of hand washing are displayed throughout the College.

- **Hand** sanitiser: Should only be used when soap and water are not available and when hands are not visibly soiled. It is a lot less effective than handwashing at removing dirt, grease and pathogens such as bacterial spores.

- **Respiratory and cough hygiene**: Coughing and sneezing easily spreads infections. Individuals are encouraged to use 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 crook of their elbow and not hands. Spitting should be discouraged.

- **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.

- **Bedding and Curtains:** All bedding and curtains need to be able to withstand washing at least at 60 degrees Celsius. Bedding items used at the College should be washed at least once weekly or more frequently if soiled. Bedding in the Medical Centre is washed after each use. Curtains should be washed or cleaned every 6 months

- **First Aid:** Appropriate PPE should be worn when providing first aid.

- **Cleaning Routines**: 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:** Where appropriate and in accordance with relevant guidance appropriate masks should be worn in enclosed spaces and when in close contact with other members of the College community.

- **Bloods and bodily fluid spillages:** It is important that spillages of blood, faeces, vomit, saliva and nasal discharges are dealt with immediately and appropriately and individuals wear appropriate PPE. When spillages occur, they should be cleaned using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant. Spillage kits are available for blood and bodily fluid spills for use by College staff likely to have contact. Staff should first use contents of the spill kit and then decontaminate the area using an appropriate product (see flowchart in Appendix 2) and then wash the area using disposable paper or if necessary clean the area with a red ended disposable mop head and discard in clinical waste as outlined in this policy. Non disposable cleaning materials e.g. mop buckets should be kept specifically labelled for that purpose and cleaned and disinfected after use using appropriate product(s). Training should be undertaken by those required to manage spillages. All relevant UK Health Security Agency guidance on the management of blood and other bodily fluid spillages should be adhered to.

- **Management of waste including sharps**: Sharps should be discarded straight into a sharps bin conforming to BS standards 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. All clinical waste should be disposed of in yellow clinical waste bags. These bags are collected weekly from the yellow clinical waste bins outside the Medical Centre, DUCKS and The Orchard Boarding Bouse by a specialist disposal company (see Sharps Policy).

- **Staff/pupil advice:** Staff and pupils should seek medical advice if the suspect they have a communicable infectious disease or illness before coming into school. They should not return from holidays or sickness absence if it is suspected they have an infectious illness / disease and until any isolation period has ended.

Policy Owner:	Deputy Head Co-curricular, Operations and Partnerships
Last Reviewed:	June 2026
Date of Next Review:	Academic Year 2027 - 28 (or earlier if required)

APPENDIX 1: MANAGEMENT OF DIARRHOEA AND/OR VOMITING OUTBREAK

Always refer to:

UK Health Security Agency / Health Protection Team Guidance

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

IS IT AN OUTBREAK?

WHAT IS TRIGGER POINT?

If there are a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of absences due to diarrhoea and/or vomiting.

This could indicate an outbreak.

It is acknowledged that all settings have a baseline level of absences and that it is not always possible to know what people are ill with. The setting may be able to identify where there is a noticeable change in absences over a few days or successive weeks. E.g. 'a rapidly increasing number' may look like a doubling of absences across the setting or in a year group in a short space of time.

WHO TO INFORM

DUCKS to inform and update daily or more frequently if there is an increase in numbers, or Kitchen Staff are involved.

Giving pupils or staff names, date, class or department, and date of illness starting, inform the following staff / departments:

- **Medical Centre** will inform **Deputy Master** line manager
- **Medical Centre** will seek advice from **Health Protection Team South London on 0300 303 0450** if increasing numbers, and if food handlers are involved.
- **Other relevant DUCKS staff** including **DUCKS Cleaner, DUCKS Caretaker.**
- **Head of Cleaning, Head of Catering, Head of Facilities, Health and Safety Officer**

Wear appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE)

Gloves, aprons

e.g. Wear facial protection if risk of splashing to face

- **Undertake actions in diarrhoea and/or vomiting outbreak action checklist:** Action Checklist

  Enhanced cleaning

  See Managing outbreaks and incidents

- In the event of an outbreak of infection at DUCKS the UKHSA South London Health Protection Team may recommend enhanced or more frequent cleaning to help reduce transmission as detailed in action check list above.
- **Enhanced environmental cleaning at least twice daily minimum** using appropriate products. With particular attention to toilets, hand touch surfaces that can be easily contaminated such as door handles, toilet flushes, taps, light switches and communal touch areas
- **Cleaning Products** used:
  SafeZone Plus Disinfectant (in DUCKS)
  BioHygeine All Purpose Sanitiser Disinfectant
  BioHygeine All Surface floor cleaner detergent
  If HPT contacted and they advise disinfection using Chlorclean or Cleanline disinfectant tablets it should be used considering manufacturers guidance with regards to preparation, usage, contact times, storage and disposal of unused solution. These products can be obtained from Facilities or the Medical Centre
- **Fogging (if available) all surfaces and areas regularly**
- **Deep clean to be done once setting has been clear of symptomatic cases for at least 48 hours includes steam clean of carpets and soft furniture**

APPENDIX 2: MANAGEMENT OF BLOOD AND BODY FLUID SPILLS

