

SCIS School policy

Infectious Diseases



<https://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/safe-school-operations/en/>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/infectiousdiseases.aspx>

Purpose of policy - To help prevent and control the transmission of infectious diseases in school, and to promote health within SCIS. Our aim is to have a safe environment.

Schools have an important role to play in supporting the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases through:

- supporting the personal hygiene routines of students, for example, provision of hand hygiene facilities
- ensuring procedures are in place to safely manage the handling of spills of blood and other body fluids or substances.

Schools are not expected to provide expert advice or treat students, which is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities as appropriate.

However, the following basic principles can help keep students, teachers, and staff safe at school and help stop the spread of infectious diseases.

Recommendations for healthy schools are based on a few main principles:

♣ **Stay home if you are sick.** Sick students, teachers, and staff should **not** come to school.

If you become ill during the school day?

Our strategy is to put the ill person in a room or area where they are *isolated* from others in the workplace, limiting the number of people who have contact with the sick person and, if needed, contacting the local health authority. A staff member who becomes ill at school should go home straight away. Campus staff will be visited by the nurse and this can be extended to off campus staff if they need this support.

Boarders (and any day student who becomes ill) should be moved to the small infirmary inside the nurse's office immediately – they should see a doctor. So,

♣ Pupils who become sick at school should be removed quickly: -

Action

Strategy

Send unwell children home as soon as possible.

Isolate children (to small infirmary) who become unwell during the day and send the unwell child home as soon as possible.

If a person gets sick during the day

♣ Isolate the person with symptoms of an infectious disease away from other students, teachers, or staff (in the Nurse's station): keep a distance of 1 metre (3 feet) or more between the person with symptoms and others.

♣ Nurse to check his or her temperature with a **non-contact** thermometer.

♣ Use gloves and clean and disinfect the area once the person leaves.

Hand washing

Schools should encourage frequent hand washing and daily cleaning of the school

Washing hands with soap and water is one of the most important ways to help everybody stay healthy at school. Hand washing should be regularly included in student schedules and students should be taught the correct way to wash and air dry their hands.

Children / staff should always wash their hands:

♣ When arriving at school / before entering the classroom / office

♣ After using the toilet or helping a child to use the toilet

♣ Before preparing food, before and after eating / helping children eat

♣ After play breaks

♣ After touching tears, snot, spit, blood, sweat, pee, poop, or vomit {Try and avoid touching body fluids from another person}

Primary colleagues might like to consider some of the curriculum resources available:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/phised/Pages/hygiene.aspx>

Respiratory hygiene or cough etiquette:

- cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- use tissues and dispose of them appropriately in the bins with lids on
- attend to hand hygiene immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing nose.

Appendix 1 - Washing hands routine

Appendix 2 – Fever Screening chart

Appendix 3 - Pupil Health Exclusions

Appendix 4 - Public Health England: Advice on Coronavirus for places of Education

Appendix 5 School community communication and additional advice

Appendix 6: Message to Parents to keep our children safe and healthy

Appendix 7 Facts about Ebola

Appendix 8: Cleaning up after a sick person if you suspect Ebola

Appendix 1 - Washing hands routine

How to wash your hands?

Wet hands with water.

Apply soap.

Rub hands palms to palms .

Rub the back of each hands with fingers interlaced.

Rub palms together with fingers interlaced.

Rub with back of fingers to the opposing palms.

Rub each thumb clasped in opposite hands.

Rub the tips of fingers.

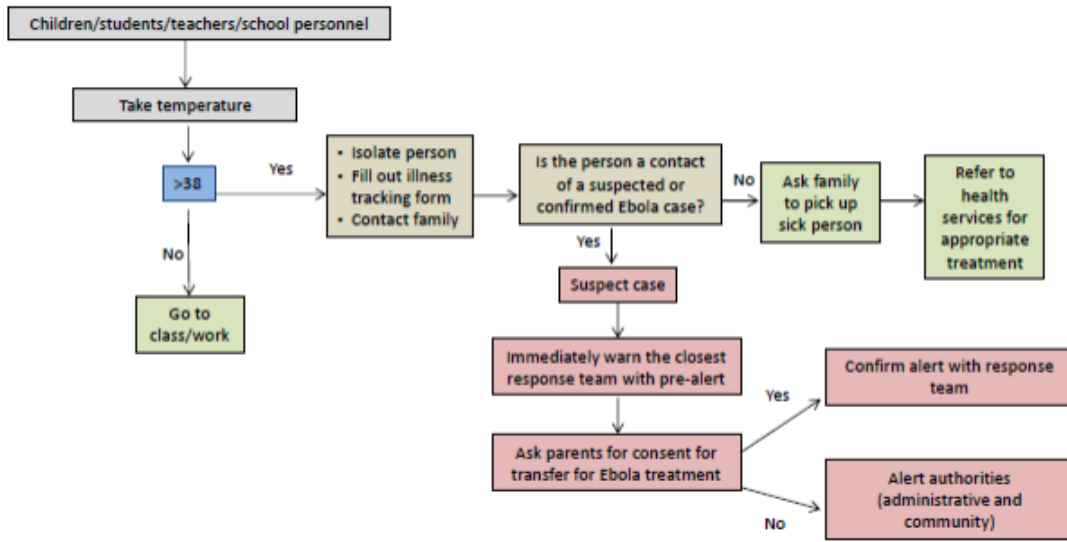
Rub each wrist with different hands

Rinse with water.

Dry thoroughly your hands.

Your hands are now clean.

Fever Screening (example)



Appendix 3 Pupil Health Exclusions

Diarrhoea - Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours

Chickenpox - Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash appears in unimmunised children, but may be less in previously immunised children

Conjunctivitis - Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased

Hepatitis A - Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness

Influenza and influenza like illnesses - Exclude until well

Measles - Exclude for at least 4 days after onset of rash

Mumps - Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)

Tuberculosis (TB) – Exclude until a medical certificate of ‘safe to return’ is received

(Note, *all those exposed to the child with TB should also be tested*. Even before a TB diagnosis, people can unwittingly transmit tuberculosis to others. People with symptomatic TB are contagious until they have taken their TB medications for at least two weeks. After that point, treatment must continue for months, but the infection is no longer contagious).

Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it
with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it
by washing
your hands with
soap & water or
hand sanitiser



**After breaks
& sport
activities**



**Before
cooking
& eating**



**SCHOOL
ETC.
On arrival at
any childcare
or educational
setting**



**After using
the toilet**



**Before
leaving
home**



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels

Appendix 5 School community communication and additional advice:-

What should be communicated (by SMT only) to the school community. It should:

- maintain student confidentiality
- be fact based
- be written in a way not to cause alarm
- inform parents and guardians that a school community member/s has been diagnosed with an infectious disease
- name the condition
- suggest that they seek medical advice regarding their child's health if they have concerns.

Appendix 6: Message to Parents to keep our children safe and healthy

- ♣ Keep your child home if he or she is sick
- ♣ If you or your child has any symptoms of an infectious disease SEE A DOCTOR and inform SCIS please
- ♣ Make sure your child is washing his or her hands before eating, after using the toilet, and before leaving for school
- ♣ Tell your child not to share cups, eating utensils, food or drinks with other children
- ♣ Tell your child to tell teachers if he or she feels sick
- ♣ Use bed nets to help prevent malaria

Appendix 7 Facts about Ebola

Most fevers will be caused by something other than Ebola, like malaria.

♣ Ebola is a dangerous disease that can spread by:

o Contact with blood, pee, poop, vomit, diarrhea, or other fluids of a person (e.g. snot or sweat) who is sick with or has died from Ebola

o Touching objects dirty with the body fluids of a sick person (like bandages, mattresses, clothes or utensils)

o Handling uncooked bush meats, although during an outbreak, the main risk is contact with a person with Ebola

♣ A person can only spread Ebola when he or she is sick

Anyone who has fever or symptoms consistent with Ebola should wait until they are well before returning to school.

Ebola symptoms can be similar to symptoms from other infections. Most illnesses and fevers are not caused by Ebola.

Signs and symptoms of Ebola include:

♣ Fever

♣ Headache

♣ Tiredness

♣ Diarrhea

♣ Vomiting

♣ Stomach pain

♣ Muscle pain

♣ Unexplained bleeding or bruising

Appendix 8: Cleaning up after a sick person if you suspect Ebola

Do not touch any body fluids with your bare hands or skin.

♣ When you are cleaning places where someone has been sick, wear protective clothing (rubber gloves, a plastic apron, and boots), or other personal protective equipment wherever you can. {Available at the nurse's Office}

Spills or waste including blood, other body fluids, secretions or excretions should be removed, and cleaned and disinfected as follows:

Place a clean rag or paper towel or absorbent pad over the spill to avoid splashes or dispersion of fluids

Remove organic material using rag, paper towel or absorbent pad by always starting from the cleanest area first and moving towards dirtiest area last

Discard in bag including the rag or paper towel or absorbent pad, and burn it all

Wash area with soap and water

♣ Remove personal protective equipment using proper procedures

♣ Dispose of or clean (if reusable) protective equipment

1. Wash your gloved hands with disinfectant.

2. Remove washed rubber gloves and put in a bucket with 0.5% chlorine solution for 30 minutes.

3. *Wash your hands with soap and water*

4. If apron is re-usable, remove it and place in the same bucket as the rubber gloves. If apron is not re-usable, dispose of it safely.

5. *Wash your hands with soap and water*

6. Use a clean towel soaked with 0.5% chlorine solution to clean your shoes/boots.

7. If wearing a head cover, remove it by grasping with fingers near back of head and dispose of it safely.

8. ***Wash your hands with antibacterial soap (e.g. Dettol) and water***