



Gulf Indian High School, Dubai



INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

2023-2024

Approved & Adopted on	03/04/2023	To be reviewed	Annually
Reviewed by	Governing Body	Signed	

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INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

INFECTION CONTROL & PREVENTION

Infectious diseases can spread easily among students and staff in a school setting. In some cases, students and staff may be asked to stay away from school to prevent the spreading of the disease.

SCOPE

To minimize, as far as possible, the risks of harm Students, Staff, and visitors to Gulf Indian High School, Dubai, this may arise through passing infections between one another. Infections and transmission of infection are prevented and managed as far as possible through the application of standard prophylactic practices.

PURPOSE

- To provide set of preventive measures to control the spread of communicable diseases within the school and in the community.
- To educate all stakeholders of the school on different ways of preventing infection and communicable diseases including hand hygiene, general hygiene and maintaining clean environment.
- To make the staff aware of the procedures to be followed if they suspect that a sick child is suffering from an infectious disease.
- To make the parents aware of how to notify the school and if children have been unwell and will not be attending on that day.

RESPONSIBILITY

Students, teachers, Non-teaching Staff and visitors could be the most likely sources of infectious agents and are also the most common susceptible hosts. They may be at risk of both infection and transmission.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED: -

1. COUGHING AND SNEEZING –

It easily spreads infection. Children and adults should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue and dispose the tissue appropriately in a bin.

2. VOMITING AND DIARRHOEA –

In the case of vomiting and diarrhea, the child should not return to school for 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.

3. FEVER AND OTHER SYMPTOMS –

Children **should not attend school** if they have a fever, a skin rash, vomiting, diarrhea, a heavy nasal discharge, a sore and inflamed throat, a persistent cough that has not been investigated, and red, watery or painful eyes. If a student is absent from school due to fever, he/she must be fever-free for at least 24hours after the last dose of antipyretic (fever reducing medication) being used.

4. WOUNDS –

If a child has an infected or oozing wound, it must be covered by a well-sealed dressing.

5. HEAD LICE-

Head lice are a common contagious infestation in children, particularly those of primary school age. However, the presence of a head lice infestation is not a public health threat. The primary responsibility for the detection and the treatment of head lice lies with the parents of the student. If it is suspected that a child has head lice, they will be sent to the school nurse for examination. In the event that live head louse are found, a letter will be sent to parents advising this. Parents will be asked to take their child from school for appropriate treatment. If only nit's (eggs) are found a letter will be sent home. The child can return to school once the treatment has been completed. The child should be seen by a member of the medical team prior to returning to class.

6. Urinary tract infections(UTI)

UTI are caused by microbes such as bacteria overcoming the body's defenses in the urinary tract. They can affect the kidneys, bladder, and the tubes that run between them. Drink lots of water, urinate frequently and Keep the genital area clean to prevent UTI.

Other remedies: -

1. HAND HYGIENE

It is one of the most recommended ways to reduce spread of infection within the school. Liquid soap solution to be placed near to all washing area to improve hand washing among students. School clinic should have hand washing facility and hand rub facility. Posters shall be placed in clinical area wherever hand hygiene facilities are placed.

2. CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Maintain a clean environment and it is essential for good infection control practice. Daily cleaning of all surfaces in the clinic with Dubai municipality approved disinfectant.

Given below are the list of **common communicable diseases** and the recommended duration of exclusion from School.

Disease or condition	Exclusion from School
Chicken pox	Until vesicles become dry or 10 days from appearance of rashes.
Conjunctivitis	Until discharge from eyes has ceased.
Giardiasis. (Diarrhea)	Until diarrhea ceases.
Hepatitis A	Until receipt of a medical certificate about recovery from infection.
Impetigo (school sores)	Until sores have fully healed.
Measles	Until receipt of a medical certificate of recovery from infection.
Mumps	Until receipt of a medical certificate of recovery from infection.
Pediculosis (Head lice)	Until appropriate treatment has commenced.
Typhoid fever	Until receipt of a medical certificate of recovery from infection.

Streptococcal infection including Scarlet fever	Until receipt of a medical certificate of recovery from infection.
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- Children with above mentioned diseases will be allowed to sit in the class only after getting a **fitness certificate** (IN WHICH IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY MENTIONED THAT CHILD IS FIT TO SIT IN THE CLASS) from the treating physician.
- Students returning to school after the episode of the above issues should come to the school clinic directly with their parents in their own vehicles so that clinic staff can re-evaluate them and avoid potential risk of spreading diseases to other students in bus, if the period of infectivity is not yet over.
- If the children are unwell at school, they will be cared for at the school clinic until being collected by the parent or guardian.
- For list of communicable diseases like Chicken pox, Hepatitis, Hand-foot-and-Mouth disease, Rosella, Mumps, Measles, Rubella, Tuberculosis, Influenza etc. **Medical clearance (DHA approved)** is needed from the treating doctor before being permitted to return to school.
- On return the child will be assessed by the school medical team and if they find the child to be a possible source of infection, parents will be called and advised to collect the child from the clinic. The decision cannot be challenged.
- **No children will be encouraged to attend school if they are not free from fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medicines.**
- The policy will be strictly followed both during regular classes and exams.

SAFE USE OF CHEMICALS USED FOR INFECTION CONTROL

Sanitization

- Personal items require cleaning and sanitization as they can get contaminated .It is advisable not to share personal items with others except when necessary.

- If you intend to share any personal item, you must ensure it is cleaned, sanitized and disinfected before it is reused to prevent any transmission of infection.
- To avoid damaging your device (such as mobiles, computers etc.) choose an appropriate sanitization method depending on the device that requires sanitization.
- Ensure that all surfaces are cleaned and sanitized properly. Do not miss any corners and spaces, especially any corners between devices, computer keyboards and the space between the keyboard buttons.
- It is advisable to regularly clean furniture using an appropriate sanitizer.
- Do not follow any unauthorized or unofficial sanitization procedure or use any chemical mixture as this may lead to harmful and toxic gas fumes that can harm your health or can damage the devices/items you intend to sanitize.
- Some items are difficult to sterilize. For example: banknotes. It is preferable to immediately sanitize your hands after using banknotes.
- Offices are considered high-risk due to close proximity and contact with staff members. Therefore, it is important to maintain highest level of sanitization and hygiene at work to protect employees.
- Practice social distancing, keep a distance of 2 meters from other individuals.
- Office spaces including all surfaces, chairs, tables, door handles, curtains etc. should be regularly sanitized using appropriate disinfectants. All necessary cleaning protocols and procedures should be followed.
- Ensure that strict disinfection and sterilization procedures are applied especially in toilets, washrooms and common use facilities.
- Replace glass cups with single-use disposable cups.

Guidelines for cleaning

- All surfaces that are considered 'high touch surfaces' eg. Telephone, table, chair arms, door handles, light switches, hand washing sink, bathroom sink, toilet and toilet handles, grab bars)

shall be cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals (a minimum of three times daily) and when visibly soiled.

- These surfaces shall be cleaned with chemical disinfectants that are EPA registered quaternary ammonium based products (regardless of the brand name) and allowed to air dry.
- Bleach can be used as a disinfectant for cleaning and disinfection (dilute 1-part bleach in 49 parts water, 1,000 ppm or according to manufacturer's instructions). Bleach solutions should be prepared fresh. Leaving the bleach solution for a contact time of at least 10 minutes is recommended. Alcohol (e.g. Isopropyl 70% or ethyl alcohol 70%) can be used for surfaces, where the use of bleach is not suitable.
- Wipe down all accessible surfaces of walls as well as blinds with disinfectant or bleach solution. Remove curtains/ fabrics/ quilts for washing, preferably using the hot water cycle. For hot-water laundry cycles, wash with detergent or disinfectant in water at 70°C for at least 25 minutes.

Storage of Dangerous Substances

- Dangerous chemicals, materials, substances and gases will always be secured in containers and cupboards that minimize risks of contamination, corrosion and exposure to toxic and carcinogenic effects. Access to such substances will be permitted to personnel only.