

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY



Version 1.1

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

ORCHYD is an inclusive community that aims to support and welcome children with complex medical conditions and disabilities.

ORCHYD's infection control policy is drawn up to reflect the requirements of both Public Health England guidance Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities and Department of Education guidance COVID-19 infection prevention and control.

ORCHYD understands that day trips and residential holidays are common sites for transmission of infections and that children attending ORCHYD are particularly susceptible because:-

- they have an immature immune system.
- have close contact with other children.
- sometimes have no or incomplete vaccinations.
- have a poor understanding of hygiene practices.
- have an underlying medical condition which makes them more at risk from certain infections.
- require intimate care that requires them to have close contact with adults providing their care.

This policy provides information for volunteers managing a wide range of common and important childhood infections. The infection control policy will be regularly reviewed, evaluated and updated by the Lead Health Care Professional (HCP).

2. INFECTION - INTRODUCTION

Infections in childhood are common. Many diseases can spread before the individual shows any symptoms (during the infectious period).

Infection prevention and control measures aim to interrupt the cycle of infection by promoting the routine of good standards of hygiene so that transmission of infection is reduced overall. This is usually through:-

- Immunisation of children and volunteers
- good hand-washing
- making sure the environment is kept clean.

Where a case of infection is known, measures aim to reduce or eliminate the risk of spread through information and prompt exclusion of a case.

Infections are spread in many different ways:-

Respiratory spread:

Contact with a cough or other secretions from an infected person. This can happen by being near the infected person when they cough and then breathing in the organism; or by picking up the organism from an infected item, for example, a used tissue or an object in the environment, and then touching your nose or mouth.

Direct contact spread:

By direct contact with the infecting organism, for example contact with the skin.

Gastrointestinal spread:

Resulting from contact with contaminated food or water, contact with infected faeces or unwashed hands after using the toilet.

Blood borne spread:

By contact with infected blood or body fluids, for example, while attending to a bleeding person, sustaining an injury with a used needle, or bites resulting in puncture or breaking of the skin (e.g. human or animal bites).

3. GENERAL PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels are recommended. Alcohol hand sanitisers can be used where hand washing is not available.

- All children and volunteers advised to wash their hands after using the toilet, after using or disposing of a tissue, before eating or handling food and after touching animals.
- Cover all cuts and abrasions with a dressing.
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a disposable tissue and washing after handling.
- Do not attend day trips or the residential holiday while being unwell, infectious or recovering from an infection - all participants should follow individual infection exclusion recommendations (refer to Health Protection Agency advice, for example must be 48 hours free of symptoms post diarrhoea and vomiting).
- In the event a child becomes unwell with a suspected infectious condition (e.g. diarrhoea and vomiting) during the residential holiday, every effort will be taken to isolate them to try and prevent further spread. If this occurs overnight or if a bed is needed, the child will be isolated in the HCP room with two volunteers present and contact lead HCP (or emergency volunteer list if more support required to manage the situation).

- Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood or bodily fluids during an activity. See Appendix 1.

4. BITES

If a bite does not break the skin; clean with soap and water.

If a bite breaks the skin; clean immediately with soap and water. Seek medical advice as soon as possible.

Remember to complete an accident form and advise an HCP on duty as soon as possible.

5. MANAGING NEEDLE STICK INJURIES

In the rare event of a needle stick injury, encourage the wound to bleed, ideally by holding it under running water, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and cover with a waterproof dressing. Report the incident immediately to the HCP on duty. Seek medical attention at the nearest Accident and Emergency Department. Document and inform parents.

6. CLEANING BLOOD AND BODILY FLUIDS

All spillages of blood, faeces, urine, vomit, saliva, nasal and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately, wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Clean spillages with a product which combines detergent and disinfectant. See Appendix 1.

7. TOILETING AND DEALING WITH CONTAMINATED CLOTHING

When supporting a child with toileting, ensure you wear appropriate PPE. The area used should be cleaned before and after use. See Appendix 1. Any contaminated clothing should be removed and placed in a plastic bag to send home after a day trip or washed separately in the case of the residential holiday.

8. SUSPECTED OUTBREAKS

An outbreak is defined as two or more people experiencing a similar illness linked to time or place.

For most infections, this will include discussion with the Lead HCP who will seek advice from the Health Protection Agency if appropriate.

For suspected cases of COVID-19 - the Lead HCP will take advice from NHS 119.

10 VOLUNTEER WELFARE

If you are unwell before your shift contact the staffing team and do not attend if you feel you might be putting others' health at risk. If you feel unwell during a shift speak to the HCP and the staffing team member on shift.

As an unpaid Carer, any volunteer over the age of 18 years old should be able to access a COVID-19 vaccination. ORCHYD can provide a letter if required to confirm the status of a volunteer as an unpaid Carer.

Certain individuals may be at an increased vulnerability from COVID-19. It is the responsibility of volunteers to discuss with their GP their own risk and suitability to volunteer with ORCHYD.

APPENDICES

PPE and Cleaning

PPE and cleaning packs will be available for volunteers. These packs will contain disposable aprons, gloves (to be put in by volunteer), fluid resistant "surgical masks", clinnel wipes, hand wipes and alcohol hand gel. Some face visors are also available in place of or addition to face masks if needed.

Face coverings can be worn for close contact indoors (within 2M), these will be in PPE packs or with HCP on duty. PPE (gloves and/or apron) may be worn when supporting feeding and should be worn for administering medication or Gastrostomy feeds and for personal care (toileting). Enhanced cleaning should be performed in all frequently touched surfaces before and after use, such as changing tables, door handles, table and chairs, etc. PPE and other disposable waste (pads and wipes, etc) should be placed in the rubbish bag provided, tied and disposed of in a bin as soon as is practicably possible.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

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