



HIGH WELL SCHOOL
Preparing for Positive Futures

Infectious Disease Policy

Policy Lead:	Business Manager
Date approved by Governing Body:	05.01.2023
Date Shared with Staff:	05.01.2023
Date of Review:	January 2024

Signed by Chair of Governors:	<i>Margaret Turner</i>
Date:	05.01.2023

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1. Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to:

- Provide a clear framework that outlines how the school will respond to specific infectious diseases, helping staff to prevent and manage infections in school
- Support the health and wellbeing of all members of the school community by avoiding the spread of infectious diseases
- Ensure the school's response to specific infectious diseases remains proportionate and in line with guidance from public health
- Ensure that staff understand their role in working towards the above aims

This policy is not intended to be used as a tool for diagnosing disease, but rather a series of procedures informing staff what steps to take to prevent infection and what actions to take when infection occurs.

2. Statement of Intent

Infections can easily spread in a school due to:

- Pupils' immature immune systems
- The close-contact nature of the environment
- Some pupils having not yet received full vaccinations
- Pupils' poor understanding of good hygiene practices

Infections commonly spread in the following ways:

- **Respiratory spread** – contact with coughs or other secretions from an infected person
- **Direct contact spread** – direct contact with the infecting organism e.g. skin-on-skin contact during sports
- **Gastrointestinal spread** – contact with contaminated food or water, or contact with infected faeces or unwashed hands
- **Blood borne virus spread** – contact with infected blood or bodily fluids e.g. via bites or used needles

We actively prevent the spread of infection via the following measures:

- Maintaining high standards of personal hygiene and practice
- Maintaining a clean environment
- Taking appropriate action when infection occurs

3. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended 2004)
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013
- The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010

This policy has due regard to statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the Following:

- Public Health England (2019) 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- Reducing the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, in the workplace (published 1st April 2022)
- People with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19 (published 1st April 2022)
- Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 (published 1st April 2022)
- Guidance for people whose immune systems means that they are at higher risk (published 4th April 2022)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Administering Medication Policy

4. Preventative Measures

4.1 Ensuring a clean environment

Sanitary facilities

- Wall-mounted soap dispensers are used in all toilets – bar soap is never used
- Toilet paper is always available in cubicles
- Suitable sanitary disposal facilities are provided where necessary

Cleaning

- Cleaning staff are employed to carry out rigorous cleaning of the premises
- Cleaning equipment is maintained to a high standard
- The business manager and caretaker are responsible for monitoring cleaning standards and discussing any issues that may arise with cleaning staff, and informing Frealex.

Equipment

- Equipment is cleaned regularly.

Handwashing

- All staff and pupils are advised to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after touching animals

4.2 Other Measures

Blood and other bodily fluids

- Cuts and abrasions are covered with waterproof dressings
- When coughing or sneezing, all staff and pupils are encouraged to cover their nose and mouth with a disposable tissue and dispose of the tissue after use, and to wash their hands afterwards
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) are worn where there is a risk of contamination with blood or bodily fluids during an activity. Gloves are disposable, non-powdered vinyl or latex.
- Spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges are cleaned up immediately. They are cleaned using a mixture of detergent and disinfectant. Paper towels or cloths are used, with staff wearing appropriate levels of PPE (e.g. gloves) and they are disposed of after use.

Bites

- If a bite does not break the skin, the affected area is cleaned with soap and water
- If a bite breaks the skin, the affected area is cleaned with soap and running water, the incident is recorded using the school's accident and incident recording systems and medical advice is sought promptly

Pupil immunisation

- The school keeps up-to-date with national and local immunisation scheduling and advice via www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations
- Whilst the school encourages parents to have their children immunised, parental consent will always be sought before a vaccination is given on the school premises
- A healthcare team may visit the school in order to carry out vaccinations and will be able to advise parents if there are any concerns
- A risk assessment will be provided by the healthcare team before any flu vaccinations take place
- All eligible pupils will be offered nasal flu vaccinations annually
- Regular communication is maintained after pupils return to lessons, as some side effects can take several hours to develop
- The school will ensure that the venue used is a clean, open, well-ventilated room, where pupils can access water and fresh air
- Needles are kept away from pupils before and after the vaccine is administered

Contact with pets and animals

- Visits to farms and zoos are strictly controlled by the risk assessments, including seeking consent from parents
- Any activities or events that involve animals visiting school are strictly controlled by the risk assessments provided by school, including seeking consent from parents

Swimming

- General swimming lessons are governed by the control measures outlined in the relevant risk assessments as approved by the school
- Pupils who have experienced vomiting or diarrhoea in the 48 hours preceding any swimming-based activities are not permitted to attend public swimming pools; pupils should also not be in school if they have experienced such symptoms in the previous 48 hours

5. In the event of Infection

There are a number of procedures in place that outline how the school manages and responds to the risk that infection presents.

5.1 Preventing the spread of infection

Parents will not bring their child to school in the following circumstances:

- The child has a high temperature/fever
- The child has a high temperature/fever combined with symptoms of a respiratory illness
- The child has been vomiting and/or had diarrhea within the last 48 hours
- The child has an infection and the minimum recommended exclusion period has not yet passed
- The child has untreated conjunctivitis
- The child has any infectious disease that precludes attendance at school for a given length of time

5.2 Vulnerable members of the school community

Pupils and staff with impaired immune defence mechanisms (known as immune compromised) are more likely to acquire infections. In addition, the effect of an infection is likely to be more significant for such pupils and staff. These pupils and staff may have a disease that compromises their immune system or be undergoing treatment, such as but not limited to chemotherapy, that has a similar effect.

If a vulnerable child is thought to have been exposed to an infectious disease, the child's parents will be informed and encouraged to seek medical advice from their doctor or specialist.

If a vulnerable member of staff is thought to have been exposed to an infectious disease, they will be informed and encouraged to seek medical advice from their doctor or specialist.

5.3 Procedures for unwell members of the school community

Staff are required to know the warning signs of pupils becoming unwell including, but not limited to, the following:

- Not being themselves
- Not eating or drinking as normal
- Wanting more attention/sleep than usual
- Displaying physical signs of being unwell, e.g. watery eyes, a flushed face or clammy skin

Where a staff member identifies a pupil as being unwell, the pupil may initially be taken to a first aider and the pupil's parents will be informed of the situation, if this is deemed necessary. In the event of a pupil having a high temperature and/or sickness/diarrhoea, parents/carers will be contacted immediately to come and collect their child.

In the case of a high temperature, pupils may return to school when their temperature has returned to normal. In the case of sickness and/or diarrhoea, pupils may return to school after 24 hours have passed without any symptoms. If the school is unable to contact a pupil's parents/carers in any situation, the pupil's emergency contacts will be contacted.

Pupils and members of staff with a confirmed diagnosis of certain infectious diseases will be asked to not attend school for the minimum recommended period. Some of the most common diseases and their respective timeframes for staying away from school are:

- **Chickenpox:** chickenpox is infectious from 48 hours prior to a rash appearing up to 5 days after the onset of a rash –
 - pupils with chickenpox will not be allowed to attend school for a period of at least 5 days after the onset of a rash
 - members of staff with chickenpox will need to have a discussion with the HR Manager about attending school
- **Gastroenteritis (or generalised vomiting / diarrhoea):**
 - pupils with these symptoms will not be allowed to attend school for a period of 24 hours after symptoms were last present
 - members of staff with these symptoms should not attend school until their symptoms have cleared and they feel well enough to be in work
- **Hand, foot and mouth:** there is no requirement for members of staff or pupils with this diagnosis to stay away from school

- **Impetigo:**
 - pupils with impetigo will not be allowed to attend school until lesions have healed and crusted or for 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment
 - members of staff with impetigo will attend work as usual, with the lesions covered

- **Ringworm:**
 - there is no requirement for members of staff or pupils with this diagnosis to stay away from school

- **Scarlet fever:**
 - pupils can return to school after 24 hours, once antibiotic treatment is started. If no antibiotic treatment is given, pupils may be required to stay away from school for longer periods of time
 - members of staff can return to work after 24 hours, once antibiotic treatment is started and if they feel well enough to be in work

- **Slapped cheek syndrome:**
 - there is no requirement for members of staff or pupils with this diagnosis to stay away from school

- **Whooping cough:**
 - Pupils with whooping cough will not be allowed to attend school until they have had 48 hours of appropriate treatment with antibiotics and appear well in themselves

Where a pupil has been prescribed medication by a medical professional, such as antibiotics, the first dose must be given at home, in the case the pupil has an adverse reaction. The pupil will only be allowed to return to school 24 hours after the first dose of medication, to allow it time to take to effect.

5.4 Contaminated Clothing

If the clothing of a first aider or a pupil becomes contaminated, the clothing is removed as soon as possible and placed in a plastic bag. The pupil's clothing is sent home with the pupil, and parents are advised to launder the clothing as soon as possible.

A first aider or other suitable qualified member of staff may assist in:

- attempting to cool the pupil down if they are too hot, by opening a window and
- suggesting that the pupil removes their top layers of clothing.
- providing the pupil with a drink of water.
- moving the pupil to a quieter area of the classroom or school.
- ensuring there is a staff member available to comfort the pupil.
- summoning emergency medical help if required.

5.5 Outbreaks of infectious diseases

An outbreak is defined as:

- two or more people experiencing a similar illness that can be linked by time or place
- a greater than expected rate of infection is present compared with the usual background rate e.g.
 - two or more pupils/members of staff in the same classroom are suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea
 - a greater number of pupils than usual are diagnosed with scarlet fever
 - there are two or more cases of measles at the school
 - there is a credible report of 2 or more probable or confirmed Strep A cases.

Suspected outbreaks of any of the diseases listed on the List of Notifiable Diseases (see Appendix C for a list of all notifiable diseases) will always be reported to:

healthprotection@wakefield.gov.uk (and infection.control@kirklees.gov.uk for COVID) who then cascade to: **UK Health Security Agency** (formerly Public Health England)

As soon as an outbreak is suspected (even if it cannot be confirmed), the headteacher will discuss with relevant staff members, SLT and Chair of Governors to agree if any actions are needed.

The headteacher will provide the following information:

- The number of staff and children affected
- The symptoms present
- The date(s) the symptoms first appeared
- The number of classes affected

If the headteacher is unsure whether suspected cases of infectious diseases constitute an outbreak, they will contact healthprotection@wakefield.gov.uk.

Information provided to parents during an outbreak will never include names and other personal details.

If a member of staff suspects the presence of an infectious disease in the school, they will contact the Head or SLT for further advice.

If a parent informs the school that their child carries an infectious disease, other pupils will be observed for similar symptoms by school staff.

If a pupil is identified as having a notifiable disease, the school will inform the parents, who should inform their child's GP. It is a statutory requirement for doctors to then notify their local Public Health England centre.

5.6 Pregnant Staff

Pregnant staff members will be informed by SLT / HR Manager immediately when any outbreak is suspected that may present additional risk to them.

If a pregnant staff member develops a rash, or is in direct contact with someone who has a potentially contagious rash, we will strongly encourage her to speak to her doctor or midwife.

Chickenpox: If a pregnant staff member has not already had chickenpox or shingles, becoming infected can affect the pregnancy. If a pregnant staff member believes they have been exposed to chickenpox or shingles and have not had either infection previously, she will speak to her midwife or GP as soon as possible.

If a pregnant staff member is unsure whether they are immune, High Well School encourage them to take a blood test.

Measles: If a pregnant staff member is exposed to measles, she will inform her midwife immediately.

Rubella (German measles): If a pregnant staff member is exposed to rubella, she will inform her midwife immediately.

Slapped cheek disease (Parvovirus B19): If a pregnant staff member is exposed to slapped cheek disease, she will inform her midwife promptly.

5.7 Staff Handling Food

Any member of staff or pupil presenting as unwell will not prepare or handle food for others e.g. as part of food technology or other cookery sessions. They should not prepare or handle food until they are feeling well again in themselves.

Food handling staff (e.g. kitchen staff) suffering from transmittable diseases will be excluded from all food handling activity until advised by the local Environmental Health Officer that they are clear to return to work. Both food handling staff and lunchtime helpers are not permitted to attend work if they are suffering from vomiting and/or diarrhoea. They are not permitted to return to work until 48 hours have passed since vomiting and/or diarrhoea occurred, or until advised by the local environmental health officer that they are allowed to return to work.

The school will notify the local Environmental Health Department as soon as we are notified that a staff member engaged in the handling of food has become aware that they are suffering from, or likely to be carrying, an infection that may cause food poisoning.

Food handlers are required by law to inform the school if they are suffering from any of the following:

- Typhoid fever
- Paratyphoid fever
- Other salmonella infections
- Dysentery
- Shigellosis
- Diarrhoea (where the cause of which has not been established)
- Infective jaundice
- Staphylococcal infections likely to cause food poisoning like impetigo, septic skin lesions, exposed infected wounds, boils
- E. coli VTEC infection

5.8 Managing Specific Infections

When an infectious disease occurs in the school, school will follow the appropriate procedures set out in this policy (including its appendices)

6. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SLT Team and approved by the full governing body.

All new members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme.

Appendix A: Managing Specific Infectious Diseases

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
Athlete's foot	Scaling or cracking of the skin, particularly between the toes, or blisters containing fluid. The infection may be itchy.	Cases are advised to see their GP for advice and treatment.	Exclusion is not necessary.
Chicken pox	Sudden onset of fever with a runny nose, cough and generalised rash. The rash then blisters and scabs over. Several blisters may develop at once, so there may be scabs in various stages of development. Some mild infections may not present symptoms.	Cases are advised to consult their GP.	Chickenpox is infectious from 48 hours prior to a rash appearing up to five days after the onset of a rash. Cases will be excluded from school for five days from the onset of a rash. It is not necessary for all the spots to have healed before the case returns to school.
Cold sores	The first signs of cold sores are tingling, burning or itching in the affected area. Around 24 hours after the first signs appear the area will redden and swell, resulting in a fluid-filled blister. After blistering, they break down to form ulcers then dry up and crust over.	Cases are advised not to touch the cold sore, or to break or pick the blisters. Sufferers of cold sores should avoid kissing people and should not share items such as cups, towels and facecloths.	Exclusion is not necessary.
Conjunctivitis	The eye(s) become reddened and swollen, and there may be a yellow or green discharge. Eyes may feel itchy and 'gritty'.	Cases are encouraged to seek advice, wash their hands frequently and not to rub their eyes. The HPT will be contacted if an outbreak occurs.	Exclusion is not necessary.

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
COVID-19 (Coronavirus)	Symptoms of COVID-19 may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuous cough ▪ High temperature, fever or chills ▪ Loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell ▪ Shortness of breath ▪ Unexplained tiredness, lack of energy ▪ Muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise ▪ Not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry ▪ Headache that is unusual or longer-lasting than usual ▪ Sore throat, stuffy or runny nose ▪ Diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick 	Cases are advised to consult their GP if poorly with symptoms.	Staff who test positive for coronavirus to isolate to avoid the risk of infecting colleagues. The period of isolation should be up to 5 days for staff and 3 days for pupils. No other special measures will remain. Exceptions will be allowed where any staff have different individual advice from their doctor or other health professional.
Food poisoning	Symptoms normally appear within one to two days of contaminated food being consumed, although they may start at any point between a few hours and several weeks later. The main symptoms are likely to be nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps and fever.	Cases will be sent home. The HPT will be contacted where two or more cases with similar symptoms are reported. The cause of a food poisoning outbreak will always be investigated.	Cases will be excluded until 24 hours have passed since symptoms were present. For some infections, longer exclusion periods may be required. The HPT will advise in such cases.
Giardia	Symptoms include abdominal pain, bloating, fatigue and pale, loose stools.	Cases will be sent home. The HPT will be contacted where two or more cases with similar symptoms are reported.	Cases will be excluded until 48 hours have passed since symptoms were present.

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
Salmonella	Symptoms include diarrhoea, headache, fever and, in some cases, vomiting.	Cases will be sent home. The HPT will be contacted where two or more cases with similar symptoms are reported.	Cases will be excluded until 48 hours have passed since symptoms were present.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	Symptoms include tiredness, fever and constipation. The symptoms of paratyphoid fever include fever, diarrhoea and vomiting.	All cases will be immediately reported to the HPT.	Cases will be excluded whilst symptomatic and for 48 hours after symptoms have resolved. Environmental health officers or the HPT may advise the school to issue a lengthened exclusion period.
E. coli (verocytotoxigenic or VTEC)	Symptoms vary but include diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, headaches and bloody diarrhoea.	Cases will immediately be sent home and advised to speak to their GP.	Cases will be excluded whilst symptomatic and for 48 hours after symptoms have resolved. Where the sufferer poses an increased risk, for example, food handlers, they will be excluded until a negative stool sample has been confirmed. The HPT will be consulted in all cases.
Gastroenteritis	Symptoms include three or more liquid or semiliquid stools in a 24-hour period.	The HPT will be contacted where there are more cases than usual.	Cases will be excluded until 24 hours have passed since symptoms were present. If medication is prescribed, the full course must be completed and there must be no further symptoms displayed for 48 hours following completion of the course before the cases may return to school. Cases will be excluded from swimming for two weeks following their last episode of diarrhoea.
Bacillary dysentery (Shigella)	Symptoms include bloody diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal pain and fever. It lasts four to seven days on average, but potentially several weeks.	The school will contact the HPT.	Microbiological clearance is required for some types of shigella. The HPT will advise.

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
Campylobacter	Symptoms include diarrhoea, headache, fever and, in some cases, vomiting.		Cases will be excluded until 48 hours have passed since symptoms were present.
Cryptosporidiosis	Symptoms include abdominal pain, diarrhoea and occasional vomiting.		Cases will be excluded until 48 hours have passed since symptoms were present.
Glandular fever	Symptoms include severe tiredness, aching muscles, sore throat, fever, swollen glands and occasionally jaundice.	Symptoms include severe tiredness, aching muscles, sore throat, fever, swollen glands and occasionally jaundice.	Exclusion is not necessary, and cases can return to school as soon as they feel well.
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Symptoms include a fever, reduced appetite and generally feeling unwell. One or two days later, a rash with blisters will develop on cheeks, hands and feet. Not all cases will have symptoms.		Exclusion is not necessary, and cases can return to school as soon as they feel well.
Head lice	Other than the detection of live lice or nits, there are no immediate symptoms until two to three weeks after infection, where itching and scratching of the scalp occurs.	<p>Treatment is only necessary when live lice are seen. Staff are not permitted to inspect any pupil's hair for head lice.</p> <p>If a staff member incidentally notices head lice in a pupil's hair, they will inform the pupil's parents and advise them to treat their child's hair.</p> <p>When a pupil has been identified as having a case of head lice, a letter will be sent home to all parents notifying them that a case of head lice has been reported and asking all parents to check their children's hair.</p>	Exclusion is not necessary.

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
Hepatitis A	Symptoms include abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, fever and tiredness, followed by jaundice, dark urine and pale faeces.	The illness in children usually lasts one to two weeks, but can last longer and be more severe in adults.	Cases are excluded while unwell and for seven days after the onset of jaundice (or the onset of symptoms if no jaundice presents), the case is under five years of age or where hygiene is poor. There is no need to exclude older children with good hygiene.
Hepatitis B	Symptoms include general tiredness, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, fever and dark urine, and older cases may develop jaundice.	The HPT will be contacted where advice is required. The procedures for dealing with blood and other bodily fluids will always be followed. The accident book will always be completed with details of injuries or adverse events related to cases.	Acute cases will be too ill to attend school and their doctor will advise when they are fit to return. Chronic cases will not be excluded or have their activities restricted. Staff with chronic hepatitis B infections will not be excluded.
Hepatitis C	Symptoms are often vague but may include loss of appetite, fatigue, nausea and abdominal pain. Less commonly, jaundice may occur.	The procedures for dealing with blood and other bodily fluids will always be followed. The accident book will always be completed with details of injuries or adverse events related to cases.	Cases will not be excluded or have their activities restricted.
Impetigo	Symptoms include lesions on the face, flexures and limbs.	Towels, facecloths and eating utensils will not be shared by pupils. Toys and play equipment will be cleaned thoroughly.	Cases will be excluded until lesions have healed and crusted or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
Influenza	Symptoms include headache, fever, cough, sore throat, aching muscles and joints, and tiredness.	<p>Those in risk groups will be encouraged to have the influenza vaccine.</p> <p>Anyone with flu-like symptoms will stay home until they have recovered.</p> <p>Pupils under 16 will not be given aspirin.</p>	Cases will remain home until they have fully recovered.
Measles	Symptoms include a runny nose, cough, conjunctivitis, high fever and small white spots around the cheeks. Around the third day, a rash of flat red or brown blotches may appear on the face then spread around the body.	<p>All pupils are encouraged to have MMR immunisations in line with the national schedule.</p> <p>Staff members should be up-to-date with their MMR vaccinations.</p> <p>Pregnant staff members and those with weak immune systems will be encouraged to contact their GP immediately for advice if they come into contact with measles.</p>	Cases are excluded for four days after the onset of a rash
Meningitis	Symptoms include fever, severe headaches, photophobia, stiff neck, non-blanching rash, vomiting and drowsiness.	Meningitis is a notifiable disease.	Once a case has received any necessary treatment, they can return to school.

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
Meningococcal meningitis and meningitis septicaemia	Symptoms include fever, severe headaches, photophobia, stiff neck and a non-blanching rash.	<p>Medical advice will be sought immediately.</p> <p>The confidentiality of the case will always be respected.</p> <p>The HPT and school health advisor will be notified of a case of meningococcal disease in the school. The HPT will conduct a risk assessment and organise antibiotics for household and close contacts.</p> <p>The HPT will be notified if two cases of meningococcal disease occur in the school within four weeks.</p>	<p>When the case has been treated and recovered, they can return to school.</p> <p>Exclusion is not necessary for household or close contacts unless they have symptoms suggestive of meningococcal infection.</p>
Meningitis (viral)	Symptoms include headache, fever, gastrointestinal or upper respiratory tract involvement and, in some cases, a rash.	<p>The case will be encouraged to consult their GP.</p> <p>If more than once case occurs, the HPT will be consulted.</p>	No exclusion is required.
Meticillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)	Symptoms are rare but include skin infections and boils.	All infected wounds will be covered.	No exclusion is required.

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
Mumps	Symptoms include a raised temperature and general malaise. Then, stiffness or pain in the jaws and neck is common. Following this, the glands in the cheeks and under the jaw swell up and cause pain (this can be on one or both sides). Mumps may also cause swelling of the testicles.	The case will be encouraged to consult their GP. Parents are encouraged to immunise their children against mumps.	Cases can return to school five days after the onset of swelling if they feel able to do so.
Ringworm	Symptoms vary depending on the area of the body affected.	Pupils with ringworm of the feet will wear socks and trainers at all times and cover their feet during physical education.	No exclusion is usually necessary. For infections of the skin and scalp, cases can return to school once they have received treatment.
Rotavirus	Symptoms include severe diarrhoea, stomach cramps, vomiting, dehydration and mild fever.	Cases will be sent home if unwell and encouraged to speak to their GP.	Cases will be excluded until 48 hours have passed since symptoms were present.
Rubella (German Measles)	Symptoms are usually mild, with a rash being the first indication. There may also be mild catarrh, headaches or vomiting. There may be a slight fever and some tenderness in the neck, armpits or groin, and there may be joint pains.	MMR vaccines are promoted to all pupils.	Cases will be excluded for six days from the appearance of the rash.
Scabies	Symptoms include tiny pimples and nodules on a rash, with burrows commonly seen on the wrists, palms, elbows, genitalia and buttocks.	All household contacts and any other very close contacts should have one treatment at the same time as the second treatment of the case. The second treatment must not be missed and should be carried out one week after the first treatment.	Cases will be excluded until after the first treatment has been carried out.

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
Scarlet Fever	Symptoms include acute inflammation of the pharynx or tonsils, with tonsils reddening in colour and becoming partially covered with a thick, yellowish exudate. In severe cases, there may be a high fever, difficulty swallowing and tender, enlarged lymph nodes. A rash develops on the first day of fever and is red, generalised, pinhead in size and gives the skin a sandpaper-like texture, with the tongue developing a strawberry-like appearance.	Antibiotic treatment is recommended, as a person is infectious for two to three weeks if antibiotics are not administered. If two or more cases occur, the HPT will be contacted.	Cases are excluded for 24 hours following appropriate antibiotic treatment.
Slapped cheek syndrome, Parvovirus B19, Fifth's Disease	Where symptoms develop, they include a rose-red rash making the cheeks appear bright red.	Cases will be encouraged to visit their GP.	Exclusion is not required.
Strep A	Flu-like symptoms, such as a high temperature, swollen glands or an aching body. sore throat (strep throat or tonsillitis) a rash that feels rough, like sandpaper (scarlet fever) scabs and sores (impetigo) pain and swelling (cellulitis) severe muscle aches. nausea and vomiting.	Seek medical attention	If a staff's child has a confirmed case of Scarlet Fever/Strep A and antibiotics are prescribed - staff should not return to work until 24 hours after their child's first dose of antibiotic. Suspect cases are not allowed in school until after 24 hours after antibiotic treatment starts. The incubation period is 2 to 5 days.
Threadworm	Symptoms include itching around the anus, particularly at night.	Cases will be encouraged to visit their GP.	Exclusion is not required.

Disease	Symptoms	Considerations	Exclusion Period
Tuberculosis (TB)	Symptoms include cough, loss of appetite, weight loss, fever, sweating (particularly at night), breathlessness and pains in the chest. TB in parts of the body other than the lungs may produce a painful lump or swelling.	Advice will be sought from the HPT before taking any action, and regarding exclusion periods.	Cases with infectious TB can return to school after two weeks of treatment if well enough to do so, and as long as they have responded to anti-TB therapy. Cases with non-pulmonary TB, and cases with pulmonary TB who have effectively completed two weeks of treatment as confirmed by TB nurses, will not be excluded.
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Symptoms include a heavy cold with a persistent cough. The cough generally worsens and develops the characteristic 'whoop'. Coughing spasms may be worse at night and may be associated with vomiting.	Cases will be advised to see their GP. Parents are advised to have their children immunised against whooping cough.	Cases will not return to school until they have had 48 hours of appropriate treatment with antibiotics and feel well enough to do so, or 21 days from the onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment is given. Cases will be allowed to return in the above circumstances, even if they are still coughing.

Appendix B: Infection Absence Periods

This table details the minimum required period for staff and pupils to stay away from school following an infection, as recommended by Public Health England.

*Identifies a notifiable disease. It is a statutory requirement that doctors report these diseases to their local Public Health England centre.

Infection	Recommended minimum period to stay away from school	Comments
Athlete's foot	None	Treatment is recommended; however, this is not a serious condition.
Chicken pox	Until all vesicles have crusted over	Follow procedures for vulnerable children and pregnant staff.
Cold sores	None	Avoid contact with the sores.
Conjunctivitis	None	If an outbreak occurs, consult the local Health Practitioner Team (HPT)
COVID-19 (Coronavirus)	None	If an outbreak occurs, consult the HPT.
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	Whilst symptomatic and 48 hours from the last episode (pupils)	GPs should be contacted if diarrhoea or vomiting occur after taking part in waterbased activities.
Diphtheria*	Exclusion is essential.	Family contacts must be excluded until cleared by the HPT and the HPT must always be consulted.
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered	Report outbreaks to the HPT.
Glandular fever	None	
Hand foot and mouth	None	Contact the HPT if a large number of children are affected. Exclusion may be considered in some circumstances.
Head lice	None	Treatment recommended only when live lice seen.
Hepatitis A*	Seven days after onset of jaundice or other symptoms	If it is an outbreak, the HPT will advise on control measures.

Infection	Recommended minimum period to stay away from school	Comments
Hepatitis B*, C* and HIV	None	Not infectious through casual contact. Procedures for bodily fluid spills must be followed.
Impetigo	48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment, or when lesions are crusted and healed	Antibiotic treatment is recommended to speed healing and reduce the infectious period.
Measles*	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination (MMR). Follow procedures for vulnerable children and pregnant staff.
Meningococcal meningitis*/ septicaemia*	Until recovered	Meningitis ACWY and B are preventable by vaccination. The HPT will advise on any action needed.
Meningitis* due to other bacteria	Until recovered	Hib and pneumococcal meningitis are preventable by vaccination. The HPT will advise on any action needed.
Meningitis viral*	None	As this is a milder form of meningitis, there is no reason to exclude those who have been in close contact with infected persons.
MRSA	None	Good hygiene, in particular environmental cleaning and handwashing, is important to minimise the spread. The local HPT should be consulted.
Mumps*	Five days after onset of swelling	Five days after onset of swelling
Ringworm	Exclusion is not usually required	Treatment is required.
Rubella (German measles)*	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by two doses of immunisation (MMR). Follow procedures for pregnant staff.
Scarlet fever	24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment is recommended, as a person is infectious for two to three weeks if antibiotics are not administered. If two or more cases occur, the HPT should be contacted.
Scabies	Can return to school after first treatment	The infected person's household and those who have been in close contact will also require treatment.
Slapped cheek/Fifth disease/Parvo Virus B19	None (once rash has developed)	Follow procedures for vulnerable children and pregnant staff.

Infection	Recommended minimum period to stay away from school	Comments
Strep A	<p>If a staff's child has a confirmed case of Scarlet Fever/Strep A and antibiotics are prescribed - staff should not return to work until 24 hours after their child's first dose of antibiotic.</p> <p>Suspect cases are not allowed in school until after 24 hours after antibiotic treatment starts. The incubation period is 2 to 5 days.</p>	<p>Staff will be asked to provide evidence to HR.</p> <p>Seek medical attention</p>
Threadworms	None	Treatment recommended for the infected person and household contacts.
Tonsillitis	None	There are many causes, but most causes are virus-based and do not require antibiotics.
Tuberculosis (TB)*	Pupils with infectious TB can return to school after two weeks of treatment if well enough to do so, and as long as they have responded to anti-TB therapy.	Only pulmonary (lung) TB is infectious. It requires prolonged close contact to spread. Cases with non-pulmonary TB, and cases with pulmonary TB who have effectively completed two weeks of treatment as confirmed by TB nurses, should not be excluded. Consult the local HPT before disseminating information to staff and parents.
Warts and verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms.
Whooping cough (pertussis)*	Two days from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from the onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment is given	Preventable by vaccination. Non-infectious coughing can continue for many weeks after treatment. The HPT will organise any necessary contact tracing.

Appendix C: List of Notifiable Diseases

Under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the following diseases will always be reported to the health protection team (HPT):

- Acute encephalitis
- Acute meningitis
- Acute poliomyelitis
- Acute infectious hepatitis
- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Brucellosis
- Cholera
- Diphtheria
- Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)
- Food poisoning
- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)
- Infectious bloody diarrhoea
- Invasive group A streptococcal disease and scarlet fever
- Legionnaires' disease
- Leprosy
- Malaria
- Measles
- Meningococcal septicaemia
- Mumps
- Plague
- Rabies
- Rubella
- SARS
- Smallpox
- Strep A
- Tetanus
- Tuberculosis
- Typhus
- Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)

- Whooping cough
- Yellow fever

Appendix D: Operational Plan - Responding to Strep A



HIGH WELL SCHOOL
Preparing for Positive Futures

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Responding to Strep A

Guidance from

**UK Health Security
Agency**

**Autumn – Spring Term
22/23**

Please note this is a working document and is liable to change frequently. Some data will appear outdated at times but this could be revisited at any time to allow for worsening conditions.

**Confidential for Internal use
only**

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Introduction

Please find below guidance from the UK Health Security Agency.

Scarlet fever is a common childhood illness caused by group A streptococcus bacteria (GAS). It is not usually serious but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of rare complications (such as pneumonia) and to stop spread to other people.

Group A streptococcus (GAS) is a common bacteria. Lots of us carry it in our throats and on our skin and it doesn't always result in illness. However, GAS can cause a number of different infections as well as scarlet fever, including impetigo (skin infection) or severe sore throat.

In a few very rare cases, GAS gets into parts of the body where it is not normally found, such as the lungs or bloodstream. This is called Invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS). It is rare for a child with scarlet fever to develop iGAS.

At this time of year there are also lots of viruses circulating that cause sore throats, colds and coughs. These usually get better without needing any special medical treatment or medicines. However, children can occasionally develop a bacterial infection on top of a virus and that can make them become more unwell. In particular, chickenpox, flu and other respiratory illnesses.

Please also see [Group A Strep and Scarlet Fever :: West Yorkshire Healthier Together \(wyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk\)](http://wyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk)

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

- The early symptoms of scarlet fever are flu-like, including a severe sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting
- A rash appears 12 to 48 hours later, usually first on the chest and stomach, then to other parts of the body. The rash is red and feels like sandpaper. The rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, but will have the 'sandpaper' feel
- Bright red 'strawberry tongue' (see pictures on Healthier Together website)
- Patients often have flushed red cheeks

Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

- The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever (Group A streptococcus) can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and severe sore throats.
- In very rare cases, Group A streptococcus can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.
- Although it is still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old.
- Parents are advised to trust their judgement and seek medical advice if they are worried about their child's health, or if their child is getting worse.
- The Healthier Together website has good advice about when to seek medical help, either from the GP/111 or more urgently.

Management and control through personal hygiene & ensuring frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices

We are ensuring that all staff and pupils “clean hands” more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.

- Hand sanitiser, anti bac, blue roll and tissues will be available in every classroom and workspace used at the school.
- All pupils and staff will throughout the day, to wash their hands as a minimum before and after break and lunchtime and after using the toilet.
- Guidance also notes that scrapes, bites and wounds provide a portal of entry so these should be thoroughly cleaned and covered.

Ensuring good respiratory hygiene and Enhanced Cleaning Regimes

As in the COVID Operational Plan we are ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.

Staff will regularly use Anti bac spray to wipe down door handles, sink taps and desk tops in an effort to reduce cross contamination, we also ask staff to use the wipes provided in toilets to clean toilet seats, taps and door handles.

What we expect parents to do

As children will from time to time suffer mild symptoms of a cold, sore throat etc., then they should continue to attend school even if there are confirmed or suspected cases in the school. However, if symptoms of Scarlet Fever are present then parents must keep at home particularly if the symptoms are accompanied with a rash, sore throat, headache and fever. Advice should be sought from their GP or 111. Antibiotics are not always prescribed but if they are then pupils should not return to school until 24 hours after their first dose of antibiotics.

A letter has been sent to parents giving advice on a suspected case.

What should school do?

Suspected cases of pupils with Scarlet Fever/Strep A are not allowed in school until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment starts this will reduce the chances of their infection becoming more severe and stops the infection spreading to others. If a child becomes ill during the school day with any symptoms in particular a red rash and/or other symptoms outlined in this document then parents are to be contacted and the child sent home.

Advice for Staff

Although Scarlet fever is rare among adults, the Strep A virus can cause adults to feel really unwell with symptoms of a severe sore throat, severe headaches, respiratory infection and high temperature. If staff present with these symptoms then they should remain at home to prevent the spread to other staff and pupils. If antibiotics are prescribed then these should have been taken for at least 12 hours before returning to work.

Should your child become unwell with Scarlet Fever/Strep A then the advice is as follows:

Your child has mild symptoms but have been advised to stay off school – If possible staff should come to work as normal.

Your child has a confirmed case of Scarlet Fever/Strep A and antibiotics are prescribed - staff should not return to work until 24 hours after their child's first dose of antibiotic.

NB: You will be asked to provide evidence to HR.

Should there be a serious outbreak, school will arrange a deep clean of the premises either on an evening or weekend to remove the possibility of a school closure.