



# REPTON

## AL BARSHA

### INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

#### Introduction

Repton family of schools are committed to providing the highest level of healthcare within all of their schools.

In order to reduce the spread of infection amongst their students, colleagues and close family members, Standard Infection Control precautions must be adhered to prevent the spread of infections by ensuring:

- Routine immunisation
- High standards of personal hygiene and practice, particularly handwashing
- Maintaining a clean environment

#### Infection Prevention

In order to reduce the spread of infection within school and to close family members, please monitor your child for any symptoms of illness and follow the Infection Control Policy stated below. Please do not send your child to school if she/he has any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (37.5 C or above) Please ensure your child is fever free **without medication** for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- Diarrhoea – 24 hours after last episode
- Vomiting – 24 hours after last episode
- Persistent cough
- Heavy nasal discharge
- Sore throat
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash

Consider keeping your child at home if she/he is particularly tired.

Please cover all open wounds or sores that have any discharge with a clean dressing, and seek medical attention if wounds become infected.

You will be contacted to collect your child if she/he has any of the above symptoms or if the medical team feels that your child is unwell.

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### **Issuing of School Work**

If a child is absent from school as a result of illness, the school will not send homework, reading books or other materials to complete at home. This is to allow the child recovery time and to avoid undue exertion. Upon returning to school, the teachers will ensure that key learning is covered in order for the child to catch up. Teachers may, at their discretion, send some extra work over a weekend to cover loss of learning.

### **Good Hygiene Practice**

#### **Handwashing**

Handwashing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory disease. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals if any. Cover all cuts and abrasions with dressings.

#### **Coughing and sneezing**

Coughing and sneezing easily spread infections. Children and adults should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue. Wash hands after using or disposing of tissues. Spitting should be discouraged

#### **Hand Hygiene**

The **World Health Organization** has focused upon the areas where the application of hand hygiene is of the utmost importance.

The 5 moments for the rules of hand hygiene are to be followed:

1. Before touching a patient or student
2. Before conducting a clean/aseptic procedure
3. After body fluid exposure
4. After touching a patient/student
5. After touching patient/student surroundings

Within the school clinic environment, additional areas for hand hygiene consist of:

1. Before handling medications
2. Moving from one contaminated body site to another body site during the care of the same student
3. After handling used or soiled linen
4. After handling waste

*Please follow the DHA 11 steps of how to hand wash or the 8 steps of hand gel use.*

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### **Personal Protective Equipment**

The healthcare staff are responsible for maintaining that an adequate supply of PPE is available for use within their clinic particularly when cases of Isolation Precautions are required.

PPE is designed to protect doctors, nurses and housekeeping staff from infectious agents and cleaning chemicals.

The process of how to apply PPE is critical in helping to reduce the transmission of infection. The first crucial step is to wash your hands with soap and water or with an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

| <b>Donning of PPE</b> |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| GOWN                  | Full cover of torso and arms reaching down to your knees.<br>Tie around the back of the neck.<br>Wrap the gown around towards the back and tie around the waist.   |
| RESPIRATOR/MASK       | Cup the respirator in your hand and lift to fit over your nose and mouth.<br>Pull the elastic band over to the back of your head and behind your ears.<br>Fit the metal band over the bridge of your nose to help create a stronger seal between the mask and face.<br>Breathe in and out to improve the seal around the nose and the mouth. |
| FACE SHIELD           | Covers all the face and the respiratory mask.<br>Adjust the back to fit comfortably on the head.   |
| GLOVES                | Apply the gloves and extend them to cover the wrists of the isolation gown.  |

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| Removal of PPE  |  |
|-----------------|--|
| GLOVES          | The gloves are contaminated, using your gloved hand pull on the palm of the other hand and peel off the glove holding it in your gloved hand. Slide two fingers of the unglove hand under the gloved hand at the wrist. Peel off the glove over the glove you are holding. Discard in a medical waste bin. |
| FACE SHIELD     | The face shield is contaminated. Remove from the back pulling upward. Discard in medical waste bin.  |
| GOWN            | The gown is contaminated. Undo the ties and pull the gown away from you by placing your hands on the inside of the gown, turning it inside out. Discard in a medical waste bin.  |
| RESPIRATOR/MASK | The front of the mask is contaminated. Lift the elastic band behind your ears with your thumbs and fingers and pull forward off your head. Do not touch the front of the mask. Discard in a medical waste bin.   |

Following the process of removal, wash your hand immediately using soap and water or an alcohol based gel.

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### **Cleaning of the environment**

Cleaning of the environment, including toys and equipment, should be frequent, thorough and follow national guidance. For example, use colour-coded equipment and correct decontamination of cleaning equipment. Monitor cleaning contracts and ensure cleaners are appropriately trained with access to PPE.

### **Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages**

All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately (always wear PPE). When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant. Use as per manufacturer's instructions and ensure it is effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on the affected surface. Never use mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages – use disposable paper towels and discard clinical waste as described below. A spillage kit should be available for blood spills.

### **Laundry**

Laundry should be dealt with in a separate dedicated facility. Soiled linen should be washed separately at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate. Wear PPE when handling soiled linen. Children's soiled clothing should be bagged to go home, never rinsed by hand.

### **Clinical waste and Sharp Disposal**

*Please refer to the Medical Waste Management Policy and Needle Stick Injury Policy.*

### **Female staff -Pregnant**

If a pregnant woman develops a rash or is in direct contact with someone with a potentially infectious rash. Advice consultation and screening to attending OBS-GYNE, Midwife or GP.

### **Immunizations**

Immunization status should always be checked at school entry and at the time of any vaccination. Parents should be encouraged to have their child immunized and any immunization missed or further catch-up doses organized through the child's GP. For the most up-to-date immunization advice see **DHA Immunization Guidelines**.

### **Infection Control Internal Assessment**

A designated infection control nurse will assess and conduct internal monthly monitoring for adherence of infection prevention practices. *Please refer for Infection Audit tool.*

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### References:

- 1) NICE (National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence) - Healthcare-associated infections: prevention and control in primary and community care guidelines.  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg139?unlid=9481319732016122535452>
- 2) NHS Professionals: Standard Infection Control Precautions.  
[http://www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk/download/comms/cg1\\_nhsp\\_standard\\_infection\\_control\\_precautions\\_v3.pdf](http://www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk/download/comms/cg1_nhsp_standard_infection_control_precautions_v3.pdf).
- 3) Guidance on Infection Control in Schools – gov.uk.  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/522337/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522337/Guidance_on_infection_control_in_schools.pdf).
- 4) Health and Safety Executive <http://HSE.online@hse.gov.uk>
- 5) Infection Control, School Health Section, Dubai Health Authority.
- 6) <http://www.Dhagov.ae>

### REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the following:

School Nurse: Janice Hurlin.

School Doctor: Dr Musabbir Hasan Moon.

School Principal: Mrs Chandini Misra.

Last amended: September 2023.

Date of next review: September 2024.

JH 20/09/2023

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