REPTON
AL BARSHA

Infection Control Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL			
Document title	Infection Control Policy	**Reference**	RAB-MED-003
Owner	School Nurse	**Approved by**	Principal, on behalf of SLT
Date reviewed	August 2026	**Next review**	August 2027
Status	Statutory — DHA requirement	**Applies to**	All pupils, parents, teaching and non-teaching staff, and medical and housekeeping staff
Related documents	Isolation Policy; Conjunctivitis Policy; Head Lice Policy and Guidelines; Guideline for the Management of Blood and Body Fluid Spillages; Laundry Service Policy; Immunization Policy		
Regulatory framework	Dubai Health Authority Infection Control standards; KHDA regulations; NICE CG139 and UK Guidance on Infection Control in Schools (as guiding good practice)		

Introduction

The Repton family of schools is committed to providing the highest level of healthcare within all of its schools.

In order to reduce the spread of infection amongst pupils, colleagues and close family members, standard infection control precautions must be adhered to. The spread of infection is prevented by ensuring:

- routine immunization;
- high standards of personal hygiene and practice, particularly handwashing;
- that a clean environment is maintained.

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 guidance below. Please do not send your child to school if he or she 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 the last episode.
- Vomiting — 24 hours after the last episode.
- Persistent cough.
- Heavy nasal discharge.
- Sore throat.
- Red, watery eyes.
- Rash.

Consider keeping your child at home if he or she 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.

REPTON
AL BARSHA

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

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, teachers will ensure that key learning is covered 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. 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, and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues. Spitting should be discouraged.

Hand Hygiene

The **World Health Organization** has identified the areas where the application of hand hygiene is of the utmost importance. The five moments for hand hygiene are:

1. before touching a patient or pupil;
2. before conducting a clean or aseptic procedure;
3. after body fluid exposure;
4. after touching a patient or pupil;
5. after touching patient or pupil surroundings.

Within the school clinic environment, additional moments for hand hygiene are:

1. before handling medications;
2. when moving from one contaminated body site to another during the care of the same pupil;
3. after handling used or soiled linen;
4. after handling waste.

Please follow the DHA eleven steps for handwashing, or the eight steps for hand gel use.

Personal Protective Equipment

Healthcare staff are responsible for ensuring that an adequate supply of PPE is available for use within the clinic, particularly when isolation precautions are required.

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

The process of applying 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 sanitiser.

REPTON
AL BARSHA

Donning of PPE

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

Removal of PPE

Item	Method
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 ungloved 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 a 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 hands immediately using soap and water, or an alcohol-based gel.

Cleaning of the Environment

Cleaning of the environment, including toys and equipment, should be frequent and thorough, and should follow national guidance — for example, the use of colour-coded equipment and correct decontamination of

cleaning equipment. Monitor cleaning contracts and ensure cleaners are appropriately trained and have access to PPE.

Cleaning of Blood and Body Fluid Spillages

All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, and nasal and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately, always wearing PPE. When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant. Use as per the 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 as clinical waste. 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, and never rinsed by hand.

Clinical Waste and Sharps Disposal

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

Pregnant Female Staff

If a pregnant member of staff develops a rash, or is in direct contact with someone with a potentially infectious rash, she should be advised to seek consultation and screening with her obstetrician, 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 missed immunization or further catch-up doses organised through the child's GP. For the most up-to-date immunization advice, see the **DHA Immunization Guidelines**.

Infection Control Internal Assessment

A designated infection control nurse will assess and conduct internal monthly monitoring of adherence to infection prevention practices. Please refer to the Infection Audit Tool.

References

1. NICE — Healthcare-associated infections: prevention and control in primary and community care (CG139).
2. NHS Professionals — Standard Infection Control Precautions.
3. Guidance on Infection Control in Schools — gov.uk.
4. Health and Safety Executive.
5. Infection Control, School Health Section, Dubai Health Authority (www.dha.gov.ae).

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Approval and Review

Stage	Role	Name and signature	Date
Prepared by	School Nurse	_____	_____
Reviewed by	School Doctor	_____	_____
Approved by	Principal	_____	_____

This policy is reviewed annually. The review dates recorded in the document control box above are the authoritative record.