**Policy on Infection Control for Dunhill N.S. BASC**

**Policy Statement of Intent**

Infectious illnesses can cause significant ill health among infants and young children.

The purpose of employing infection control procedures is to reduce the number of

germs, to a level where there is no longer a threat to public health. This infection control

policy will also help ensure hygiene is applied correctly and that risk of infection to

children and staff is minimised. There will be access to a sink and hot water for cleaning

purposes, at all times, in each room.

This policy is available to Parents on the School Website and at the BASC and will be communicated to all parents, guardians and school age children.

***Reporting/Recording of illnesses***

Should an outbreak of an infectious disease occur, the BASC staff will report to the

Principal of Dunhill N.S., who will in turn contact the HSE and TUSLA, and

follow their advice. BASC Staff must report any infectious illness or similar to the Principal.

The Principal must record all details of illness reported to him/her by staff or

reported by parents of a child attending the service. These details will include

the name, symptoms, dates and the duration of the illness.

***Exclusion***

Unwell children, i.e. those with a temperature and/or other specific signs and

symptoms, should not use the BASC service until a diagnosis is made and the

appropriate exclusion period (if any) for that illness is served. Children with infectious diseases will not be allowed return to the BASC until they are cleared by a doctor or physician to do so. This should be made clear to the BASC staff in writing from a recognised GP.

Children should remain at home if they are suffering from general diarrhoea or

vomiting, for at least 48 hours after the symptoms cease.

Children who become sick while at the BASC must be collected by their parents or someone nominated by their parents so as to protect BASC staff members and other pupils from infection. In the event of a parent being notified of a child’s sickness, the child must be collected promptly.

***Hand Hygiene***

The most effective way to control the spread of infection is thorough handwashing.

A wash hand basin is provided in each room with a constant supply of hot and

cold running water, liquid anti-bacterial soap and roller towels.

Wash hand basins are located in the toilets, G.P. Room kitchen,

and staff room. Children are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the

toilet, before eating, and after playing outside. Staff must wash their hands, before

preparing or serving food, before feeding children, before eating or drinking, after going

 to the toilet, after dealing with bodily fluids, after cleaning procedures, after caring for sick

children, after handling soiled clothes or items, after dealing with waste, and after

removing disposable gloves.

***Hand washing technique***

Wet hands under hot water (not exceeding 43◦c for children to prevent scalding), apply

liquid soap, rub vigorously paying particular attention to palms, backs of the hands,

wrists, fingernails and fingers, rub between each finger and around the thumbs, rinse,

dry thoroughly using paper towels, and turn off taps using the paper towel.

***Toilets***

Toilet areas must be cleaned frequently in accordance with the

cleaning schedule, and immediately if soiled. Particular attention should be paid

to toilet handles, door handles, toilet seats and wash hand basins, especially taps.

***Bodily Fluid Spillages***

Spills of blood, vomit, urine and excreta will be cleaned up as quickly as possible.

Other persons will be kept away until this is done. Disposable plastic gloves should be

worn when dealing with any such spillage. Paper towels will be used to soak up excess

liquid, and then transferred along with any soiled matter, into a plastic bag.

Ordinary household bleach, mixed according to manufactures instructions, will

be used for cleaning and disinfection purposes.

When the clean-up is complete, hands must be thoroughly washed and dried.

***Food and Hygiene***

Staff preparing food must do so with hygiene foremost in mind. Clean hands, counters and

utensils will be used when preparing and eating food. Children will have washed their hands

prior to eating.

Staff must notify the Principal if they are suffering from any illness that is likely

to cause food poisoning. An exclusion period should be determined following vomiting or

diarrhoea, usually 48 hours without symptoms.

***Immunisation Records***

Children’s immunisation records are kept in the pupils files in the school filing cabinet. Records of those that have not been immunised are also found there.

The BASC premises will be cleaned at all times.

This policy was drafted and passed in May, 2019

It will be updated every 2/3 years or if needed before then.

Common Rashes and Skin Infections Recommended period to be kept away from the BASC.

Chickenpox: Until scabs are dry, usually 5-7 days from onset of rash

German measles (rubella) Seven days from onset of rash

Hand, foot and mouth None, once child is well

Impetigo Until lesions are crusted and healed, or

 24 hours after commencing antibiotic

 treatment

Measles Four days from onset of rash

Ringworm Exclusion not usually required

Scabies Children can return after first treatment

Scarlet fever Child can return 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment

Slapped cheek/fifth disease None

Parvovirus B19

Shingles Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting

E. coli O157 VTEC Further exclusion required – cases excluded until 2 negative stool specimens taken at least 48h apart

Typhoid [and paratyphoid] Further exclusion may be required for some children until they are no longer excreting

(enteric fever)

Shigella (dysentery) Further exclusion may be required forcertain types of Shigella infections

Cryptosporidiosis Exclude for 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea

Flu (influenza) Until recovered

Tuberculosis Always consult your local DPH

Whooping cough Five days from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment

(pertussis)

Conjunctivitis None

Glandular fever None

Head lice None (Treatment is recommended only)

Hepatitis A Exclude until seven days after onset of jaundice

(or seven days after symptom on set if no jaundice)

Hepatitis B, C,

HIV/AIDS None Hepatitis B and C and HIV

Meningococcal meningitis/

Septicaemia Until recovered

Meningitis due to other bacteria Until recovered

Meningitis viral None

MRSA None

Mumps Exclude child for five days after onset of swelling

Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis None

Outbreaks: if BASC Childcare Service suspects an outbreak of infectious disease, we will inform our local DPH.

This policy was drafted and passed in May, 2019

It will be updated every 2/3 years or if needed before then.