

# INFECTION CONTROL POLICY



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# **CONTENT**

1. POLICY STATEMENT
2. INFECTION INTRODUCTION
3. GENERAL PREVENTION AND CONTROL
4. BITES
5. MANAGING NEEDLED STICK INJURIES
6. CLEANING BLOOD AND BODILY FLUIDS
7. TOILETTING AND DEALING WITH CONTAMINATED CLOTHING
8. COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL
9. SUSPECTED OUTBREAKS
10. VOLUNTEER WELFARE
  - APPENDIX 1
  - APPENDIX 2

REFERENCE MATERIAL

# **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 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 conditions 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. It includes the principles of infection prevention and control to enable safe working during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - while the UK is at threat level 3 and above.

The infection control policy will be regularly reviewed, evaluated and updated by the Lead 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 cough or other secretions from an infected person. This can happen by being near the infected person when they cough and then breathe 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 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 or 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 wash 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, 10 days post COVID-19).

\*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 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 nearer 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. COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

During UK Covid-19 level three and above threat level, the following additional approaches should be employed:-

- \* Minimise contact with others who are unwell - lateral flow tests will be offered to all volunteers prior to the start of their shift. There should be additional volunteers available should a volunteer test positive. See Appendix 2.
- \* Effective hand-washing should be performed often throughout the day.
- \* Robust hand and respiratory hygiene should be maintained (catch it, bin it , kill it).
- \* Enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces -see Appendix 1.
- \* Minimise contact and mixing. Children and volunteers should remain in small groups where possible. This includes keeping children to the same transport groups as lunch groups. Care should be taken when children are dropped off and collected by parents to minimise contact with others.
- \* Appropriate use of PPE - see Appendix 1.
- \* Social distancing - try to maintain to the 2M rule whilst inside - especially with others outside the Orchyd group. If this cannot be maintained, volunteers should wear a face covering.
- \* The use of shared resources should be minimised as much as possible - do not share toys or equipment unless they have been thoroughly cleaned between use. Use of single personal items encouraged as far as possible (e.g. child has own cup/bottle, toys etc).
- \* Children should spend as much time as possible outside. Ventilation should be increased in all indoor areas by opening windows, this includes buses.
- \* Orchyd will actively engage with NHS test and trace.

\* If either a child or volunteer presents as unwell during the trip (if they develop a temperature of 37.9C and above, a new cough or loss of taste or smell) - they should be isolated from others and cared for by a minimum volunteer number as possible - these volunteers should wear PPE including a face mask, the parents should be informed so the child can be collected. Volunteers who feel unwell should discuss with staffing/HCP on duty.

## **9. 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 Test and Trace.

## **10 VOLUNTEER WELFARE**

As a 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.

Whilst the UK is still at threat level three and/or above, meaning the infection is circulating widely in the community, 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.

It is acknowledged that some volunteers may be exempt from wearing face coverings. Orchyd has to balance the safety of all individuals involved in our trips and holidays and would not wish to discriminate on these grounds. If you are exempt please contact

either the Lead HCP or Chair at Orchyd to discuss additional measures required to maintain safety.

# **APPENDICES**

## **PPE and Cleaning**

PPE and cleaning packs will be provided for all volunteers. These packs will contain disposable aprons, gloves, fluid resistant “surgical masks”, rubbish bags, clinell wipes and alcohol hand gel. Some face visors are also available in place of or addition to face masks.

Face coverings should be worn for close contact indoors (within 2M). PPE ( apron, gloves and mask/visor) should be worn when supporting feeding, administering medication or feeds and for personal care (toileting). Any volunteer who would prefer to wear PPE at all times (including outdoors) will be provided with sufficient PPE for their shift. Any NHS, Education or Social Care workers should seek advice from their employers regarding the use of PPE whilst they are volunteering.

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 practicable possible.

### **1) Lateral flow testing**

Lateral flow testing kits will be available for all volunteers to use before their shift. Although these are not mandatory - it is expected that due to the vulnerabilities of our children, volunteers will be willing to perform a test whilst they are volunteering with Orchyd.

Tests can either be ordered by individuals themselves from the NHS website or can be provided by Orchyd. Ideally they should be completed the night before your first shift and twice a week onwards. If a positive test is obtained, the staffing team should be contacted, the individual should arrange a PCR test and isolate as per current guidelines.

### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19>