



Hygiene and Infectious Diseases Policy

Introduction and Background

It is accepted by the school that:

- The promotion of individual and community good health is part of the school's responsibility
- As a crossroads for the Balkans and a gateway between Western and Eastern Europe, Belgrade is vulnerable to the introduction of infectious diseases from overseas
- As an international school is highly mobile, the school is potentially vulnerable to the spread of global infections
- It has a role to promote good hygiene practices in the school community

Objectives

- To ensure that the health of all community members is protected and promoted
- To enable the school to develop proactive measures to promote community health
- To enable the school to react quickly and effectively to the threat of infectious disease
- To promote the continuity of the students' education in the event of a serious epidemic or pandemic and possible school closure
- To ensure the calm, informed and confident implementation of appropriate measures in the event of a national and international health alert

Policy/Procedure Outline

- Cleanliness of the School: The highest standards of cleanliness will be maintained at all times. All facilities are cleaned on a daily basis and more frequently at times of high alert.
- Health Education and Awareness: Health education will be promoted in appropriate subjects and PSHE units throughout the school. Such units are periodically reviewed by the Principal to ensure relevance and appropriateness.

Viral Pandemics

In the event of a possible pandemic, the school will take the following action according to the declaration by the WHO of new levels of alert:

At Level 3

The SMT team will monitor the situation and keep the Principal informed. We will keep parents informed of all planned actions and follow normal procedures for hygiene and infection prevention.



At Level 4

The SMT will monitor the situation and remind parents to keep their children at home in the case of a likely viral infection. The school community will also be reminded of the importance of maintaining sensible hygiene precautions and especially of washing hands regularly. We will draw up appropriate contingency plans in accordance with the nature of the infectious disease, WHO advice and government policy. Any action within the contingency plan will be enforced by the school and communicated to parents.

At Level 5 and in addition to action at Level 4

- The SMT will establish key information about the viral infection causing the Level 5 alert, especially of its spread and nature, ascertaining the danger it poses to our community
- Parents and children may be asked to stay away from school within the incubation period of the infection if they have possibly been exposed to the virus as a result of travel or other of a family member suffering from indicative symptoms
- All staff and students with indicative symptoms will be asked not to come to school and will be sent home if they display these symptoms at school
- Additional cleaning will be undertaken. All toilet, store and classroom door handles will be cleaned with anti-bacterial agents twice a day and wastepaper bins emptied twice a day
- The senior leadership team will discuss the measures the school is taking to respond to the declaration

At Level 6, and in addition to action taken for Level 4 & 5

- It is assumed that there is a very strong possibility of an outbreak in Serbia
- The SMT will keep in touch with our Parents concerning possible school closure
- In the event of a confirmed, sustained and spreading outbreak in Serbia ECA's may be cancelled until further notice
- The Principal and the School Directors will decide if and when the school should close and for how long
- If there is a strong chance of school closure, teachers will ascertain the email address of their students and prepare work that can be sent electronically to their students
- The school will always close if instructed to do so by the relevant authorities
- The school will follow all recommendations of any contingency plans drawn up

School wide epidemics

In the event that a significant proportion of the school population are diagnosed with an infectious disease or condition the Principal will determine the point at which the school should close. In all matters the school will seek external advice from a paediatric specialist and government officials before making a final closure decision.



Responsibilities

Staff

- Ensure that the policy and appropriate curriculum units are prepared, promoted, reviewed and updated
- Delegates responsibility for the writing of health education units
- Monitors WHO news and convenes immediately a Level 4 Pandemic Alert is declared
- Communicates with the school community in the event of a global alert at Level 5 or 6 being declared
- Will ask parents to take action that conforms with this policy
- Will convene a Health and Safety Committee if necessary

School Directors/Principal

- Ensure that standards of hygiene are maintained throughout the school
- Periodically (and at least once a term) conduct inspections of the campus to ensure that standards of hygiene are maintained, reporting their findings to the board
- Advise the SMT concerning all aspects of hygiene, infectious disease and pandemics
- Advise when students should not be in school due to illness
- Meet the board twice a term to discuss Health and Safety matters
- Holds the school leadership accountable for the good hygiene of the school

School Counsellor/Class Teacher/Form Tutor

- Counsel students in all social and emotional matters arising from concerns about illness

Teachers and Teaching Assistants

- Implement all aspects of health education for which they are responsible
- Promote and model good hygiene practices, especially at times of high alert
- Send students who display viral symptoms, as defined in the clinic manual to the school nurse/school office

Parents

- Promote good hygiene practices
- Respond to the advice of the school leadership at times of high alert (Level 5 & 6)
- Respond to school requests for children to stay at home when infectious or during the outbreaks at class or school level epidemics
- Follow school requests for a child to remain at home while suffering a condition that is resulting in significant poor health or places them at higher than normal risk of infection by other students.



Policy Review

This policy is reviewed regularly.
Reviewed February 2020