



## **Infection Control Policy**

Many healthcare activities are associated with a risk of infection. It is essential that everyone involved makes sure that they keep this risk of infection as low as possible. This policy explains the advice given to school staff working in the ERB about how to prevent and control the spread of infections. It is taken from the NICE guidelines on preventing infection Information for the public Published: 1 March 2012 nice.org.uk

### **Principles of preventing infections**

#### **Keeping hands clean**

It is essential that hands are cleaned in the correct way when any type of healthcare is carried out, in order to minimise the risk of passing on infections. This is sometimes called 'hand hygiene' or 'hand decontamination'. Staff should make sure that their hands are cleaned effectively throughout the time they are providing care, by:

- removing wrist and hand jewellery (including watches)
- having short, clean fingernails without nail polish
- covering any cuts or grazes with waterproof plasters
- wearing clothes that are short-sleeved or have sleeves that can be easily pushed up.

Hands must be cleaned at all of the following times:

- immediately before and immediately after any healthcare activity or procedure
- immediately after any exposure to body fluids
- immediately after any other activity or contact with a student's surroundings that could cause hands to become contaminated
- immediately after removing gloves.

Hands that are not visibly dirty should be cleaned using a hand rub that conforms to British Standards. However, liquid soap and water must be used if hands look dirty or could have come into contact with body fluids, or if there is a risk of spreading infections that cause diarrhoea, such as *Clostridium difficile* ('C. diff').

#### **Cleaning your hands using liquid soap and water**

- Wet your hands under lukewarm running water.
- Apply liquid soap, making sure that it covers all the surfaces (including the back) of your hands.



- Rub your hands together vigorously for at least 10 to 15 seconds, remembering your fingertips, thumbs and the areas between your fingers.
- Rinse your hands thoroughly and dry them (for example with a clean hand towel, paper towels or kitchen roll).

### **Cleaning your hands using hand rub**

- Hands should not be visibly dirty.
- Make sure that the hand rub covers all surfaces (including the back) of your hands.
- Rub your hands together vigorously, remembering your fingertips, thumbs and the areas between your fingers.
- Rub your hands together until they are dry.

**Students should be encouraged and supported (if appropriate) to use hand rub or soap and water to clean their hands after using the bathroom.**

### **Protective equipment**

The types of protective clothes and other equipment that staff may use will depend on the risk of infection.

#### **Gloves**

- Glove must be worn if staff have any contact with the inside of a student's body (including their mouth) or with a wound. Gloves must also be worn if they are carrying out an activity that might lead to contact with blood or body fluids, contaminated equipment (e.g. uri bottles).
- Staff must use gloves only once. They must put them on immediately before the activity, remove them as soon as it is completed and dispose of them according to the special rules for this.
- Gloves must be changed between different activities for the same student as well as between different students

#### **Other protective equipment**

- Staff should wear a disposable plastic apron if blood or body fluids might splash onto their clothes,
- Aprons should be used once and disposed of correctly.

### **Cleaning of Equipment.**

The level of cleaning used will be vary depending on level of use and situation. ClineI wipes and a mop, bucket and appropriate cleaning fluids will be provided.



### Bathroom Equipment

- The plinth should be cleaned using the Clinel wipes after each use in between pupils.
- Any Moving and Handling Equipment should be wiped down after each use and in between pupils.
- Any toilet seats used should be wiped down with Clinel wipes after each use.
- Spillages of body fluids should be mopped up and the area cleaned with the appropriate cleaning equipment.
- All equipment will be given a clean with soap and water weekly.
- Floors, toilets and sinks should be mopped daily as part of the normal cleaning routine.
- In the event of illness, toilets etc. should be cleaned immediately using disinfectant.

### Physiotherapy room Equipment

- The Plinths should be cleaned weekly using soap and water.
- Exercise equipment should be wiped down weekly.
- Floors to be swept daily and mopped weekly.