

Bredenbury Primary School
INFECTION CONTROL POLICY
FEBRUARY 2020

Including: Coronavirus Pandemic information March 2020 - page 4

Signed and dated:
Chair of Governors
Headteacher

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and in the event of an outbreak of an infection such as pandemic influenza or any contagious illness.

PRINCIPLES

The school recognises that infections such as influenza pandemics are not new. No-one knows exactly when the school will be faced with having to deal with a potentially contagious illness amongst its community.

We recognise the need to be prepared. Infections are likely to spread particularly rapidly in schools and as children may have no residual immunity, they could be amongst the groups worst affected. We recognise that closing the school may be necessary in exceptional circumstances in order to control an infection. However we will strive to remain open unless advised otherwise. Good pastoral care includes promoting healthy living and good hand hygiene. School staff will give pupils positive messages about health and well-being through lessons and through conversations with pupils.

PLANNING AND PREPARING

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil or member of staff has a significant infectious illness we would direct their parents to report to their GP and inform Public Health England.

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During an outbreak of an infectious illness such as a pandemic the school will seek to operate as normally as possible but will plan for higher levels of staff absence. The decision on whether school should remain open or close will be based on medical evidence. This will be discussed with the Health Protection Agency. It is likely that school will remain open but we recognise the fact that both the illness itself and the caring responsibilities of staff will impact staff absence levels. The school will close if we cannot provide adequate supervision for the children. Students will be asked to complete work at home.

INFECTION CONTROL

Infections are usually spread from person to person by close contact, for example:

- Infected people can pass a virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing or even talking within a close distance.
- Through direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- By touching objects (e.g. door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

Staff and students are given the following advice about how to reduce the risk of passing on infections to others:

- Wash your hands regularly, particularly after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Minimise contact between your hands and mouth/nose, unless you have just washed your hands.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not attend school if you think you may have an infectious illness.

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HAND WASHING IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF INFECTION CONTROL IN SCHOOLS

Minimise sources of contamination

- We will ensure relevant staff have Food Hygiene Certificate or other training in food handling.
- We store food that requires refrigeration, covered and dated within a refrigerator, at a temperature of 5 C or below.
- We wash hands before and after handling food.
- We clean and disinfect food storage and preparation areas.
- Food is bought from reputable sources and used by recommended date.

To control the spread of infection

- We ensure good hand washing procedures (toilet, handling animals, soil, food)
- Children are encouraged to blow and wipe their own noses when necessary and to dispose of the soiled tissues hygienically.
- We wear protective clothing when dealing with accidents. (e.g. gloves)

In order to prevent the spread of infections in school we follow the guidelines set by the Health Protection Agency, regarding the recommended period of time that pupils should be absent from school.

Detailed information about many conditions is available at

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/>

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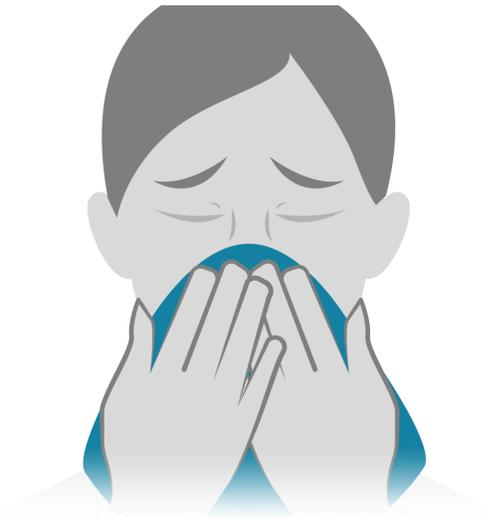
How can we all try to stay well?



**Wash hands for about 20 seconds
with soap and hot water or use a
sanitiser gel**



**Avoid touching your eyes,
nose and mouth
with unwashed hands**



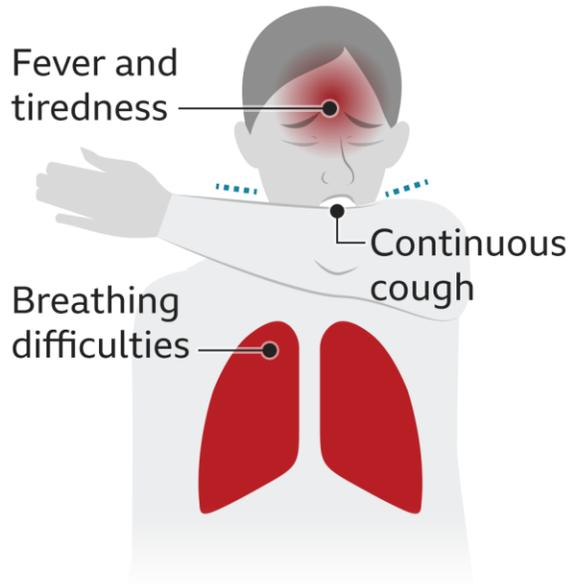
**Use a tissue for coughs
and sneezes**



**If you don't have a tissue
use your sleeve**

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What are the symptoms - and what should I do if I feel unwell?



If you or someone you live with has a 'new, continuous' cough or a high temperature, you should all stay at home for 14 days



If your symptoms get worse or are no better after seven days seek medical advice

Use the online 111 coronavirus service at 111.nhs.uk. In Northern Ireland, call 111

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PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND

Guidance

**Stay at home: Guidance for households with possible coronavirus
(COVID-19) infection**

Updated 16th March 2020

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Main messages to parents and staff

- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period. (See [ending isolation](#) section below for more information)

Make a plan now for your household or family

The best thing you can do now is plan for how you can adapt your daily routine, and that of others in your household, to be able to follow this advice. Some of the ways in which you could prepare include:

- talk to your neighbours and family and exchange phone numbers

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Why staying at home is very important

It is very important that individuals with symptoms that may be due to coronavirus and their household members stay at home. Staying at home will help control the spread of the virus to friends, the wider community, and particularly the most vulnerable.

Those with symptoms and living alone should remain at home for 7 days after the onset of their symptoms (see [ending self-isolation](#) below). This will reduce the risk of you infecting others.

If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms that may be caused by coronavirus, then household members must stay at home and not leave your house for 14 days (see [ending self-isolation](#) below). If possible, you should not go out even to buy food or other essentials, other than exercise, and in that case at a safe distance from others. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in your house became ill.

It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or may already be infected. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

- many people find it helpful to plan out the full 14 days, such as on a make-shift calendar. You may also find it helpful to plan in advance what you will do if, for example, someone in the household were to feel much worse, such as have difficulties breathing
- when you are feeling better, remember that physical exercise can be good for your wellbeing. Look for online classes or courses that can help you take light exercise in your home

If you are living with children

Keep following this advice to the best of your ability, however, we are aware that not all these measures will be possible.

What we have seen so far is that children with coronavirus appear to be less severely affected. It is nevertheless important to do your best to follow this

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guidance.

If you have a vulnerable person living with you

Minimise as much as possible the time any vulnerable family members spend in shared spaces such as kitchens, bathrooms and sitting areas, and keep shared spaces well ventilated.

Aim to keep 2 metres (3 steps) away from vulnerable people you live with and encourage them to sleep in a different bed where possible. If they can, they should use a separate bathroom from the rest of the household. Make sure they use separate towels from the other people in your house, both for drying themselves after bathing or showering and for hand-hygiene purposes.

If you do share a toilet and bathroom with a vulnerable person, it is important that you clean them every time you use them (for example, wiping surfaces you have come into contact with). Another tip is to consider drawing up a rota for bathing, with the vulnerable person using the facilities first.

If you share a kitchen with a vulnerable person, avoid using it while they are present. If they can, they should take their meals back to their room to eat. If you have one, use a dishwasher to clean and dry the family's used crockery and cutlery. If this is not possible, wash them using your usual washing up liquid and warm water and dry them thoroughly. If the vulnerable person is using their own utensils, remember to use a separate tea towel for drying these.

We understand that it will be difficult for some people to separate themselves from others at home. You should do your very best to follow this guidance and everyone in your household should regularly wash their hands, avoid touching their face, and clean frequently touched surfaces.

Ending self-isolation and household-isolation

If you have been symptomatic, then you may end your self-isolation after 7 days. The 7-day period starts from the day when you first became ill

If living with others, then all household members who remain well may end

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household-isolation after 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day illness began in the first person to become ill. Fourteen days is the incubation period for coronavirus; people who remain well after 14 days are unlikely to be infectious.

After 7 days, if the first person to become ill feels better and no longer has a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine. If any other family members become unwell during the 14-day household-isolation period, they should follow the same advice - that is, after 7 days of their symptoms starting, if they feel better and no longer have a high temperature, they can also return to their normal routine.

Should a household member develop coronavirus symptoms late in the 14-day household-isolation period (for example, on day 13 or day 14) **the isolation period does not need to be extended, but the person with the new symptoms has to stay at home for 7 days.** The 14-day household-isolation period will have greatly reduced the overall amount of infection the rest of the household could pass on, and it is not necessary to re-start 14 days of isolation for the whole household. This will have provided a high level of community protection. Further isolation of members of this household will provide very little additional community protection.

At the end of the 14-day period, any family member who has not become unwell can leave household isolation.

If any ill person in the household has not had any signs of improvement and have not already sought medical advice, they should contact [NHS 111 online](#). If your home has no internet access, you should call NHS 111.

The cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean someone must continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days.

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**A SUMMARY OF THE MOST COMMON CONDITIONS AND
RECOMMENDED PERIODS OF ABSENCE ARE SHOWN BELOW.**

It is important to note that the school **are unable to authorise** absence on medical grounds or illness for conditions where the guidelines state that no period of absence is recommended; e.g. head lice

DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING ILLNESS:

Illness / condition - Recommended period of absence

Diarrhoea and vomiting - 48 hours from the last episode

E Coli 1571 - Exclusion for 48 hours for 48 hours from last episode and school to consult with PHE

Typhoid and paratyphoid (Enteric fever) - Exclusion for 48 hours from last episode and school to consult with PHE

Shigella (Dysentery) - Exclusion for 48 hours from last episode and school to consult with PHE

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS:

RASHES AND SKIN INFECTIONS:

Illness / condition - Recommended period of absence

Athlete's foot - none

Chicken Pox - 5 days from onset of rash/ until spots have crusted

Cold sores (Herpes) - None

German measles (Rubella) - 5 days from onset of rash

Hand, Foot and Mouth - None

Impetigo - Until lesions are crusted or healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics.

Measles - 5 days from onset of rash

Ringworm - Until treatment is commenced

Roseola (infantum) - None

Scabies - Pupil can return after the first treatment

Scarlet fever – 24 hours after commencing anti-biotics

Slapped cheek - None

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Warts and Verrucae - None

Shingles - Exclude only if the rash is weeping and cannot be covered.

OTHER INFECTIONS:

Illness / condition - Recommended period of absence

Conjunctivitis - None

Diphtheria - Exclusion essential and school to consult with PHE

Glandular Fever - None

Head lice - None

Hepatitis A - Exclusion until 7 days after onset of jaundice (or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice) and school to consult with PHE

Hepatitis B or C - None

HIV / AIDS - None

Meningococcal meningitis / septicaemia - Until recovered

Bacterial Meningitis - Until recovered

Viral Meningitis - None

MRSA - None

Mumps - 5 days from the onset of swollen glands

Threadworms - None

Tonsillitis - None

Illness / condition - Recommended period of absence

Influenza - Until recovered

Tuberculosis - Exclusion and school to consult with PHE

Whooping cough - 5 days from commencing anti-biotics or 21 days from onset of illness if no anti-biotic treatment has been prescribed. In the latter situation we will require a doctor's note.

During outbreaks of diarrhoea and/or vomiting the following should be actioned:

- The use of play dough should be suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the play dough used prior to the outbreak is disposed of;
- The use of play sand should be suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the sand used prior to the outbreak is disposed of;

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- The use of water should be suspended until 48 hours after the symptoms end and the water and water toys should be thoroughly cleaned prior to use.
- The use of soft toys should be suspended whilst they are adequately washed.
- Shared equipment such as building bricks etc. should be steam cleaned in affected classrooms.
- Table tops and door handles should be steam cleaned in affected classrooms.
- Children who have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting should not be included in cooking for 48 hours.

If a child is unwell in school children should wait with adult supervision until they are collected by their parents or carers. If close personal care is required the child will be moved to the Medical Room and appropriately trained staff should use appropriate equipment such as gloves, aprons and surgical masks where required. The room will require steam cleaning following use.

To prevent the persistence and further spread of infection

- Ask parents to keep their child at home if they have an infection, and to inform the school as to the nature of the infection.
- Remind parents not to bring a child to school who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack.
- Staff are expected to follow the same guidance.

Farm visits

Hand washing is essential throughout the visit and particularly after coming into contact with live stock.

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SUPPORT FOR STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND CARERS

The school has a number of Qualified First Aiders who assess pupils and staff before recommending further action. Individuals who are believed to have an infectious illness are sent home and are advised to contact their GP or local hospital.