

Pandemic Flu Policy

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office@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk or 01543 472245

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Date	Version	Reason for change	Overview of changes made	Source
10.09.2020	0.1	Scheduled Review by Internal Lead	Addition of hand sanitiser to Trust actions to limit spread of infection. J Bowman	Existing TSSMAT policy
05.10.20	0.2	Scheduled Review by Board Lead	No changes	
16.10.20	1.0	Scheduled Review	Ratified by Board	

Pandemic Flu Policy

The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust recognises the importance of advanced planning in order to maintain services and limit the spread of pandemic flu.

Flu is a viral infection, spread from person to person by close contact. Symptoms may include:

Sudden fever	Limb and joint pain
Sudden cough	Diarrhoea or stomach upset
Headache	Sore throat
Tiredness	Runny nose
Chills	Sneezing
Aching muscles	Loss of appetite

Any child who becomes ill with symptoms which could be pandemic flu while on Trust premises will be isolated from the other children until the child can be collected by his or her parents. The school or Care Club will remain open but parents and staff will be informed, especially those in high-risk groups.

Any children or staff who are experiencing symptoms of pandemic flu should stay away from school or Care Club until all symptoms have passed and they feel well. Please also see the Illness and Accidents Policy.

Infection control

The flu virus is spread by:

- Infected people passing the virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing, or even talking within a close distance (one metre or less).

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.

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. The virus can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

We will limit the risk of catching or spreading the flu virus by:

- Regular hand-washing
- Provision of hand sanitiser
- Minimising contact between our hands and mouth/nose
- Covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing; using a tissue when possible, and disposing of the tissue promptly and carefully (bag it and bin it)
- Encouraging children to follow the guidance above
- Instructing staff to remain at home if they display any relevant symptoms, or sending them home if they first display symptoms while at work.

At The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust we will promote infection control through the methods above, and in addition we will:

- Display posters and information to promote infection control
- Ensure that adequate supplies of cleaning materials are available within Trust premises
- Dispose of waste promptly and hygienically
- Clean hard surfaces (e.g. door handles) with sanitizer regularly
- Provide tissues and suitable facilities for their disposal.

Closure

The latest scientific advice is that closing individual settings is of limited benefit in stopping the spread of the disease. However, there may be some occasions when we will have to consider temporarily closing the school or Care Club because we have too few unaffected staff to run sessions safely. If this occurs the Trust will contact Staffordshire Early Years or Childcare Service on 0300 111 8000 for further support and guidance.

The school or Care Club will also have to close if advised to do so by the local authority in the interest of safeguarding the children in our care.

In the event of closure, the Trust will notify parents or carers as soon as possible. The Trust will also inform the local childcare information service as well as other relevant parties, e.g. feeder schools, other users of shared premises, etc. We will also notify Ofsted of the closure.

Advance planning

In preparation for dealing with a pandemic disease, the Trust will ensure that all contact details for staff, children and parents are up to date.

We will prepare letters of notification for parents and staff, so that they can be distributed as soon as an outbreak occurs.

We will endeavour to build a bank of relief or supply staff who are able to provide cover should staffing levels fall below the required legal minimums. Any relief staff will be DBS checked at the time of joining our team, so that they are legally able to work with children should the situation arise.

The Trust will regularly update its information regarding pandemic diseases, by checking the latest guidance from DfE and the local authority, and will inform parents and staff of any changes to our emergency plans.

Useful contacts

Early Years or Childcare Service: 0300 111 8000

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2014): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Health [3.44]*.