

Document Control	
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Person Responsible:	Jo Twyford, Appointed Person (First Aid)

Infectious Diseases

Please find below guidelines issued for information, this is not an inclusive list of all matters, and parents should always follow any guidance provided by the UK Health Security Agency, accessed via this [link](#).

Please contact the school if you require any explanation on any of the points or have any questions regarding an infectious disease your child may have.

Parents have a responsibility to keep the whole school community safe by informing the school as soon as possible if their child is suffering from an infectious disease.

Sickness and Diarrhoea (including E-Coli and Cryptosporidiosis)

Children who are sick or have an episode of diarrhoea should remain at home for a period of at least 48 hours after the last episode. Children should not swim for 2 weeks after an instance of diarrhoea. In the case of E-Coli children must be excluded until there is evidence of microbiological clearance.

Chicken Pox

Children should remain at home until all spots have scabbed over.

Conjunctivitis

This is highly contagious and easily spread by children. We therefore ask if your child is suffering from this infection, that they stay home until all redness and irritation has subsided. Treatment is now available over the counter at a pharmacy. Children should not swim until the condition has completely cleared.

Hand Foot and Mouth

Children should stay off school until their temperature subsides and blisters and ulcers are no longer causing pain.

Headlice

Parents should check their children's hair regularly. Children may return to school once their hair has been treated. Children with shoulder length hair or longer should wear it tied back and plaited.

Impetigo

Impetigo is highly contagious, and children must not come to school until all lesions are healed.

Measles

Measles is a highly infectious viral infection which is having a global resurgence. Children should stay away from school until 4 days after the onset of the rash. Parents must advise the school if measles is suspected as it can be dangerous to the community with weakened immune systems, young babies or those who are pregnant.

Molluscum Contagiosum

Molluscum contagiosum (MC) is a viral infection that affects the skin. Around 9 out of 10 cases happen in children. It is a harmless condition that gets better without treatment and children do not need to remain off school or stop activities such as swimming.

Please do inform the School Office if your child has this virus as it can be spread by touching the skin of an infected person or sharing items such as swimming floats.

Ringworm

Treatment is required, exclusion is not usually required, please follow the advice of your doctor or pharmacist.

Scarlet Fever

A child can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has commenced.

Slapped Cheek

A child may return to school once the rash has fully developed. Parents must advise the school if their child develops this condition as it is a risk to pregnant women.

Threadworm

This is a common illness, and we will make parents aware if a case of Threadworm has been reported in their child's class. Encouraging children to wash their hands and keeping fingernails short can help prevent infection. Treatment is available at most pharmacies.

Warts and Verruca's

Verruca socks must be worn when swimming to prevent the spread of infection.

Whooping Cough

A child may return to school five days after starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days after the onset if no antibiotic treatment.

COVID-19

COVID-19 is an infectious respiratory disease, symptoms include a high temperature, cough and a sore throat. Further information can be found on the NHS website.

UKHSA guidance says that it is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

COVID-19 can still have an impact on the school community, either through teacher absence or via contact with vulnerable relatives. Please do be cautious and keep your child at home if they are unwell with a high temperature or continuous cough.

If you have any doubts please call the School Office.

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Guidance for Pregnant Staff and Parents on Infection Control in Schools

The School Office will inform all staff and parents if there is a child with an infectious disease in school to ensure that those who have not yet announced pregnancy are aware and can take action.

- Chickenpox can affect the pregnancy if a woman has not already had the infection. Report exposure to midwife and GP at any stage of exposure. The GP and antenatal carer will arrange a blood test to check for immunity. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, so anyone who has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable to the infection if they have close contact with a case of shingles.
- German measles (rubella). If a pregnant woman comes into contact with German measles she should inform her GP and antenatal carer immediately to ensure investigation. The infection may affect the developing baby if the woman is not immune and is exposed in early pregnancy.
- Slapped cheek disease (parvovirusB19) can occasionally affect an unborn child. If exposed early in pregnancy (before 20 weeks), inform whoever is giving antenatal care as this must be investigated promptly.
- Measles during pregnancy can result in premature delivery or even loss of the baby. If a pregnant woman is exposed, she should immediately inform whoever is giving antenatal care to ensure investigation.

If a pregnant staff member develops a rash or is in direct contact with someone with a potentially infectious rash, this should be investigated by a doctor. The risk to pregnant women from such infections can be greater if they have from own child/children, rather than that in the workplace. Risk assessments will be carried out for all pregnant staff.

This policy applies to all members of our school community, including those in our EYFS setting. Banstead Prep School is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Further details are available in the school's Equal Opportunity Policy document.

Banstead Prep School seeks to implement this policy through adherence to the procedures set out in the rest of this document. In line with our Provision of Information policy, this document is available to all interested parties on our website and on request from the School Office.