



# OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

Medical Policy Addendum

COVID 19 Medical Arrangements

## **COVID 19 ADDENDUM (UPDATED JULY 2020)**

### **AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19 within the school, containing and suppressing outbreaks and proactive management of any outbreaks. The Senior Management Team and School Nurse are committed to promoting the health and welfare of all members of the school community.

This Addendum Policy takes guidance from **Education and Childcare during coronavirus – Dept of Ed**. It includes:

*Coronavirus (COVID 19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings – 1.6.20*

*Guidance for full opening of schools – 7.8.20*

*Safe working in education, childcare and children’s socialcare settings, including use of PPE – 16.6.20*

*Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings – 1.6.20*

*Coronavirus(COVID-19):guidance on isolation for residential educational settings*

and should be read alongside other school policies which include the Medical Policy (OBHP22), First Aid Policy (OBHP11), Safeguarding Policy(OBH23), and other Guidance on Infection Control in the Education Setting set by the Government and Public Health England.

The School Nurse is responsible for supporting and coordinating any response that may be required in the event of being notified that a member of the school community has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The School Nurse, with the SMT, will organise an appropriate response and inform members of the community of any guidance that may be required; this can be done anonymously but would ensure that any at risk groups would be able to take any necessary precautions as advised.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect the lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus. Transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) mainly occurs via respiratory droplets generated during breathing, talking, coughing and sneezing. These droplets can directly infect the respiratory tracts of other people if there is close contact. They also infect others indirectly. This happens when the droplets get

onto and contaminate surfaces, which are then touched and introduced into the mouth or eyes of an uninfected person.

The school will put in place protective measures based on the list below

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

### **Symptoms of coronavirus**

The most important symptoms of coronavirus are recent onset of **any** of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees Celsius)
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If anyone has any of the symptoms above they should stay at home, organise a test and self-isolate until they have a result. Their household contacts should also self isolate until the result is known.

- If they test negative, they and their household contacts can end their self-isolation.
- If they test positive:
  - they and their household contacts will need to continue to self-isolate. (10 days for the person who has tested positive, 14 days for the household.)
  - Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise school on the most appropriate action to take

### **Parents and staff must inform the school immediately of the results of a test**

Anyone who becomes unwell at school and displays the symptoms listed above must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Whilst awaiting collection, the child should be isolated in sickbay behind a closed door with the window open. They must only use sickbay bathrooms. PPE (mask, visor, apron and gloves) must be worn by the person caring for the child.

If at all possible all children will go home. If a boarder is unable to leave they will self isolate in sickbay until the test result is known. All meals will be taken in sickbay. The school will ensure that the arrangements for oversight of pupils and students in isolation protects the safety and welfare of all children and staff. For further information see [guidance on isolation for residential educational settings](#).

**There will be a low threshold for sending a child home if unwell. OBH will be using a cautious approach until levels of concern as stated by the DOH/Government have been lowered.**

If whilst waiting to go home a person becomes seriously ill ring 999 and call for help and advice.

Anyone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The sickbay and bathroom must be cleaned with normal household disinfectant after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

Public Health England is clear that routinely taking the temperature of pupils is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19)

**Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test & Trace.**

## **INFECTION PROTECTION AND CONTROL:**

Infection is spread from person to person by close contact: e.g. 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: e.g 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 pupils are given the following advice about how to reduce the risk of passing on infections to others:

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

- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly; or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser, ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered, if there is no access to soap and hot water.
- ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings> (April 2020)
- Minimise contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

- NHS information - [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)
- and <https://111.nhs.uk/>
- Book a test through <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
- Self-isolation advice - [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/)

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Guidance is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

Government guidance states staff should not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.

It clarifies that there are no additional PPE requirements because of coronavirus (COVID-19) for first aid.

### **Managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community**

Immediately OBH becomes aware that someone has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) they will contact the local health protection team on:

Email: [EastofEnglandHPT@phe.gov.uk](mailto:EastofEnglandHPT@phe.gov.uk); [phe.EoEHPT@nhs.net](mailto:phe.EoEHPT@nhs.net)

Telephone 0300 303 8537

Out of hours for health professionals only - 01603 481 221

This team will also contact OBH directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attends the school. (identified by NHS Test and Trace.)

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. The health protection team will work with school in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take.

Based on the advice from the health protection team, OBH will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home. To support them in doing so, OBH will keep a record of pupils and staff in each group, and any close contact that takes place between children and staff in different groups. (e.g boarding houses / dorms)

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms.

If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#). They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#)