

Wootton Bassett Infants' School



Health of Pupils Policy & Responsibilities

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Summary

In the majority of cases the health condition of a pupil will have no impact on the health and safety of other pupils or staff. However, when children, visitors or employees attend school with certain conditions or illnesses they present risks to the health of others.

It is necessary in some instances for the infected person to stay away from the school until the infectious period has passed. The Department of Health (DoH) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) issue generic information and guidance on these periods.

The LA advises schools to follow the guidance from the UK Health & Security Agency which is regularly updated and can be accessed here - [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274222/Health_protection_in_children_and_young_people_settings_including_education_-_GOV.UK.pdf) which is 'A practical guide for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in children and young people settings, including education'.

It is not possible to produce definitive advice about how to deal with each specific case.

Further and more general support for schools is also available from the School Nursing Service in relation to child health issues and the Occupational Health Section of the Council in relation to employee health issues. Both can assist in preparing information for parents.

Where a wider public health risk exists (such as an outbreak of e-coli) then the Council's Public Protection Team may also be involved.

Local Authority responsibilities

The School Nursing Service is available to give advice on general health issues relating to pupils and is an excellent source of information and support.

School Nurses can also provide advice and support to children and parents in relation to medical needs and a range of health-related difficulties, including training teachers to support children with medical needs as part of a programme of care.

School Nurses also undertake immunisation programmes.

Access and availability: Term-time only

Who can use the service? School aged pupils, parents, and school staff.

The [Public Health](#) pages on Right Choice provide information for schools on helping people to stay healthy and protecting them from threats to their health. Infection control information and resources are available within these pages.

The [Healthy Schools](#) pages on Right Choice provide information to support schools with the health and wellbeing of children and young people. In addition, the team offers training to school staff to enable them to provide effective and sustainable support to pupils.

School responsibilities

When a school is notified of a case, or cases, of a communicable disease within the school advice should be sought from the UK Health & Security Agency or the Local Authority Public Health Team. The school should then follow this advice in order to reduce the risks to the health of others.

Schools should take particular care to notify expectant mothers amongst the staff about any communicable diseases affecting any of the pupils or other staff. In particular, Chickenpox, German Measles and Parvovirus can be dangerous to expectant mothers or their unborn child.



Key information and definitions

A **communicable** (or infectious) **disease** is an illness due to the transmission of a specific infectious agent from an infected person, animal or inanimate source to a new host, either directly or indirectly.

FAQs

Q. Will the school need to close if we have an outbreak of an infectious disease?

A. This will depend on a range of factors. Please follow the advice from the UK Health & Security Agency or the Public Health team at Wiltshire Council.

Success indicators

Any cases of a communicable disease are dealt with appropriately.

School staff are aware of the procedure when a communicable disease is identified within the school community.

Further help and information

The Consultant in Communicable Disease Control is the LA source of specialist advice pertaining to specific illnesses available at the [Public Health England](#) - telephone Wiltshire's local public health team on 01225 716836 or Public Health England on 0300 303 8162 (option 1, then option 2).

Wiltshire Children's Services

Telephone: 0300 247 0090 or

Email: VCL.Wiltshirespa@nhs.net

Health and Safety Advisers

Email: schoolhealthandsafety@wiltshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01225 713185

Public Health England - [South West](#)

Government Guidance - [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)