

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY

AIMS

The school aims to maintain the highest standard of cleaning as a mode to reduce the transmission of sickness and disease.

OBJECTIVES

It is the policy of Safa British School to provide a happy and healthy learning environment for every student within our care. Minimising the spread of infections and communicable diseases plays a huge part in ensuring the health of the staff and students. Thus this policy is to ensure that procedures are implemented to minimise the source and transmission of infection. In other words to use standard precautions and infection control techniques in all situations that may present exposure to and transmission of infections.

PURPOSE

To ensure all staff members are aware of cleaning practice and to inform involved staff of their duties.

SCOPE: All Staff

SCHOOL HEALTH FACILITY

The school health facility is staffed by a DHA registered nurse and a part time doctor who are on hand to offer advice and support to children, parents and staff with regards to infectious diseases. Aside from routine medical examinations the school medical team assess children when necessary and parents are contacted when required. If a child shows signs of illness staff are fully aware to send them to the clinics.

IMMUNISATION

Vaccinations play a large part in minimising the spread of communicable disease. SBS is a licensed vaccination clinic. A vaccination service is offered to parents who wish to have their child vaccinated during the school day. The vaccinations will be given by the SBS nurses and vaccinations are supplied by DHA (Dubai Health Authority). The immunisation of each child is assessed on entry to the school. Any outstanding vaccinations are reported to parents with a copy of the current UAE immunisation schedule (see Appendix 1)

GENERAL PROCEDURES

- Upon identification of any notifiable disease an E-notification will be sent to the DHA (Dubai Health Authority). For notifiable diseases e.g. meningitis the school will not address any sort of letter to parents unless advised to by the nurse after contacting the DHA.
- Parents are contacted on the school communicator about the decisions made with regard to keeping children home when there are signs of an infectious disease. The DHA exclusion from school guidelines are followed.
- Records are kept of all children's immunization and letters sent home reminding parents when vaccinations are due.
- Information is given on the communicator if there is a report of an infectious disease within the school, educating parents on the signs and symptoms of the disease.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) -Any staff member coming into contact with body fluid uses protective equipment. Gloves are used for the protection of hands and from any bodily fluid. These are single use gloves and should be discarded in the appropriate container. Masks to protect staff when performing CPR.
- Education on hand washing procedures will be displayed at strategic places around the school.

- The disposal of any contaminated waste will be placed in a sealed yellow plastic bag and disposed of through the medical waste company.
- All needles, syringes and other sharp objects will be placed in yellow Bio Hazardous puncture proof sharps container, available from Trashco medical waste company. This will be collected by the waste management company when after 3months or when full.
- Spills of blood and body fluids will be cleaned up immediately with approved disinfectant cleaner.

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

In order to reduce the spread of illness Safa British School follows the following regulations and procedures which have a higher incident rate: Children are sent home if they have:

- A fever or temperature over 37.5
- Respiratory symptoms: cough, runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, difficulty of breathing
- An unexplained rash.
- Vomiting-Must be 24 hours free of symptoms without the use of medication.
- Diarrhea-Must be 24 hours free since last episode and returned to normal.
- Red, watery and painful eyes with a yellow discharge

EXCLUSION PERIODS

1. When a child is unwell due to a specific communicable disease it may be necessary to exclude them from attending school until the contagious period of the disease has passed. Should a communicable disease be suspected in a child during the school day parents will be contacted to take their child to see a doctor. Parents are asked to inform the school of any diagnosis that may affect the health of other students within the school community. Health alerts will be put onto the school communicator informing parents of any infectious diseases that have been diagnosed by a doctor.
2. If a student has an infected wound it must be covered with an appropriate dressing.
3. A good hygiene practice is encouraged at school. Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhea and vomiting, and respiratory disease. Staff and students are encouraged to always wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating food etc. All toilets have appropriate washing facilities with soap and drying facilities. Coughing and sneezing easily spread diseases. Students and staff are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue. They should also wash their hands after using or disposing of the tissue. Spitting is discouraged. All open cuts / abrasions should be covered with appropriate dressings. This infection control policy is constantly under review, responding to the changing needs of the health of the school community.

When specific diseases threaten the health and safety of our students tailored information is made available to staff and parents. Such as outbreaks of Covid-19, H1N1 virus, MERS, Ebola etc. Advice is taken from the DHA and other agencies such as the CDC and WHO.

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

- Standard precautions are to be maintained at all times within the school setting. These are outlined by the World Health Organization (2007) and are also posted within the school clinic.
- Staffs are to perform routine hand washing or hand sanitising between students, after contact with students, and anytime they are dirty to prevent the spread of infection.
- Gloves are to be worn when dealing with any blood or bodily fluids, administering vaccinations, and any other act of care the health care professional feels they are necessary for.

- Alcohol swabs are to be used to clean the skin surface prior to administering vaccines or checking blood sugar.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, gloves, gowns, glasses to be utilised as needed within the clinic setting.

ISOLATION ROOM GUIDELINES

- Student and staff will be directed toward the isolation room if with uncomplicated upper respiratory tract viral infection, may have non-specific symptoms such as:
 - ✓ Temperature of 37.5 C or higher
 - ✓ Respiratory symptoms (cough, runny nose/nasal congestion, sore throat & difficulty of breathing)
 - ✓ Fatigue
 - ✓ Anorexia/ body pain
 - ✓ Headache
 - ✓ GI symptoms (diarrhea, nausea & vomiting)
 - ✓ Loss of smell (anosmia)
 - ✓ Loss of taste/appetite (ageusia)
- Please inform the School nurse (via phone call/radio) before transferring the patient to isolation room. This will give the nurse time to wear Personal Protective Equipment. The person accompanying a suspected Covid-19 case must keep a 2 meter distance from the patient and should not enter the isolation room.
- The nurse with PPE will assess the child inside the isolation room. If stable, parents will be called to collect the child and bring to hospital for checkup. If unstable, the ambulance will be called for hospital transfer. The parents will be notified of the same.
- For hospital transfer, if parents are onsite, the parents will accompany the child to hospital. If parents are not onsite, one member of health and safety committee will accompany the student to the hospital.
- After patient leaves the isolation room, the nurse wearing the PPE will go ahead and disinfect the surfaces and remove disposable bed covering.
- Remove PPE in anteroom or if not available, PPE must be removed outside isolation but will not contaminate either the environment outside the isolation room or area, or other people.
- After cleaning and disinfection, fogging must be done to complete the sanitation.

ROUTINE CLEANING

- a) The health room is to be cleaned at minimum twice a day, once in the morning before the start of the day and at the end of the school day.
- b) Classrooms are to be routinely cleaned at minimum once per day.
- c) The staff room is to be kept in a tidy orderly fashion. The fridge is to be cleaned once a week with all expired items being thrown in the trash. The staff room is to be cleaned at minimum once a day by cleaning staff. Staffs are asked to clean up after themselves and put all dirty dishes in the dishwasher.
- d) All public areas are to be kept neat and tidy.
- e) Garbage around the school campus is to be cleaned once a day. Trash cans and recycling bins are placed around the school campus to prevent littering.
- f) A daily cleaning checklist is to be maintained by the cleaning company and will be checked by the infection control coordinator on a monthly basis.

Toys and play equipment are to be cleaned by cleaning staff on a daily basis and documentation of cleaning maintained by cleaners.

How to handwash?

Wash Hands Only When Visibly Soiled! Otherwise, Use Handrub!

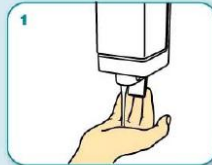
Infection Prevention and Control Office - Primary Health Care



Duration of the entire procedure: 40-60 sec.



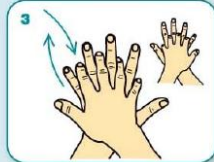
Wet hands with water



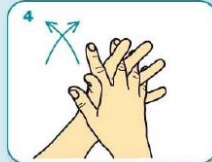
apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



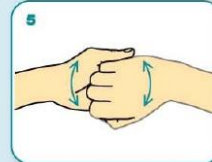
Rub hands palm to palm



right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa



palm to palm with fingers interlaced



backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa



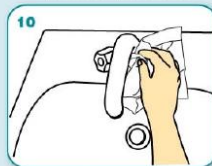
rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.



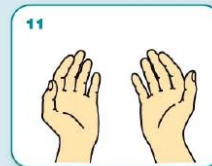
Rinse hands with water



dry thoroughly with a single use towel



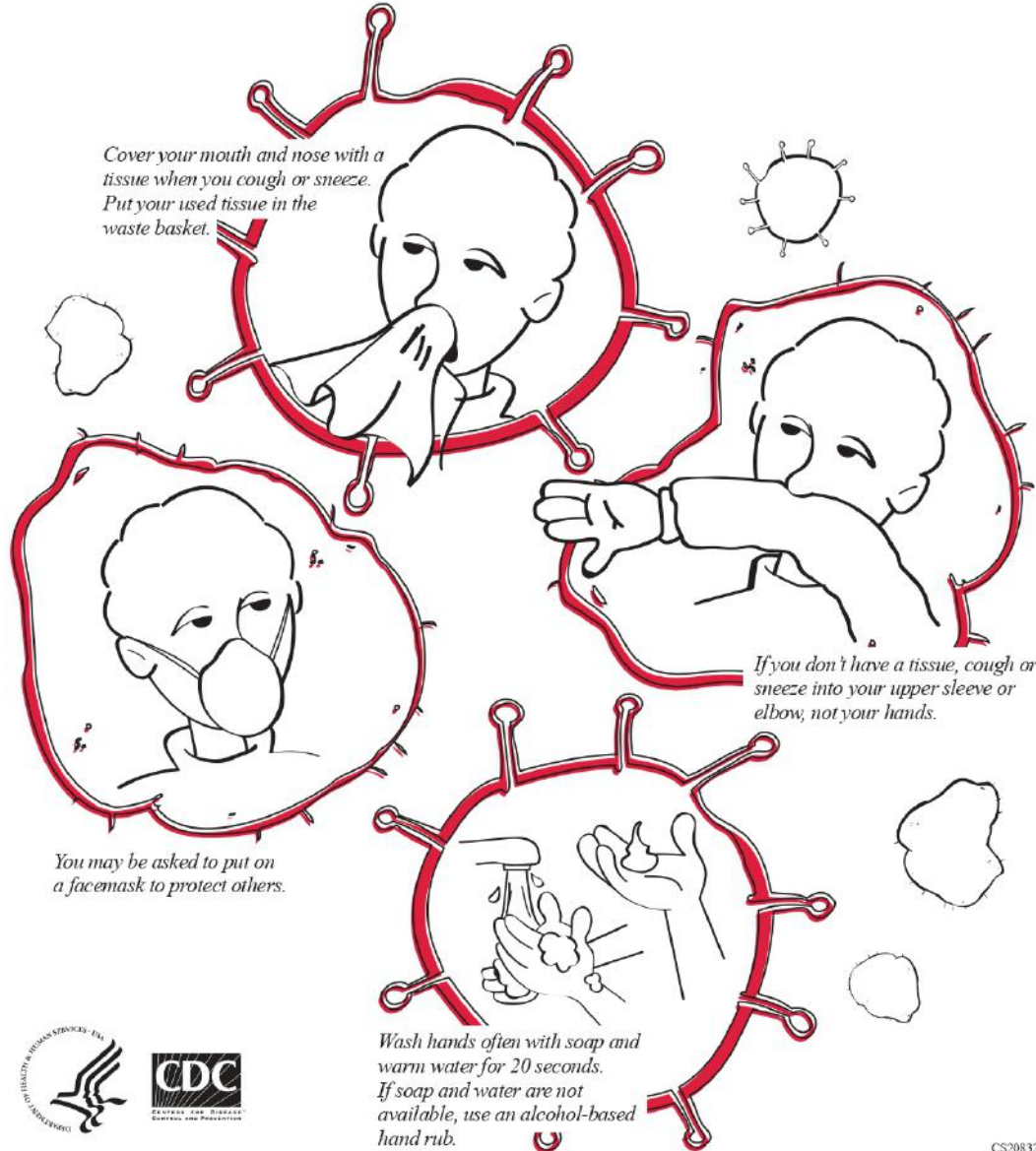
use towel to turn off faucet



... and your hands are safe.

Cover Cough

— Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick! —



CS208322

Implementation Date: September 2020

Review Date: September 2021

Reviewed by: _____
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Approved By: _____
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