

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL TOP TIPS FOR SCHOOLS (COVID-19)

DANA WOOD, INFECTION PREVENTION PRACTITIONER

HAND HYGIENE

- It is better to wash with soap and water whenever possible.
- Ensure hands are dried properly as wet hands transfer microbes more readily.
- If using alcohol hand rub, hands need to be washed after FOUR hand rub applications in a row.
- Alcohol hand rub needs to cover all surfaces of the hands when used.

MASKS

- When wearing masks / face coverings, people need to avoid touching them as this contaminates hands. If you have touched your mask, you need to decontaminate your hands.
- 3 ply surgical masks are single use so should not be reapplied.
- Fabric face coverings should ideally be changed daily and washed at 60 degrees C.
- If in a school where personal care is being undertaken, cloth face coverings are not appropriate and 3 ply surgical masks should be worn.

OTHER PPE

- If wearing other PPE, it needs to be ensured that this is removed correctly – remove gloves first without skin touching the outside of the glove, decontaminate hands, remove apron by ripping neck and pulling downwards then ripping sides and bringing inwards, decontaminate hands, remove mask touching straps only, decontaminate hands.
- If touching the mask when wearing gloves, both need to be removed, hands decontaminated, then new PPE applied.

CLEANING

- Consideration needs to be given to high touch areas (taps, door handles, rails).
- Also consider other items that staff touch such as kettles, fridge doors, tea canisters etc.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Staff need to be 2 metres away from each other wherever possible – this includes when waiting outside for children to arrive, in meetings and during breaks (this latter means a limit on the number of staff in a staff room / kitchen at any one time).

COVID ROOMS – SUSPECTED CASES

- Where there is a suspected case of Covid-19, it needs to be ensured that the room where the child waits to be collected is cleaned after use.
- If the room is carpeted, it should not be vacuumed until there is a confirmed result. If the child is negative, it can be vacuumed, if positive, it should be cleaned rather than vacuumed.