

ETTINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

March 2020



MAJOR HEALTH OUTBREAK PROCEDURES



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DEFINITION

A major health outbreak (Epidemic or pandemic) occurs when a new virus, disease or other infection emerges, that is capable of spreading rapidly.

School settings are considered high risk areas during a major health outbreak, because children are efficient spreaders of infections, particularly those which are air-borne. Staff within school settings are also therefore at high risk.

AIM OF SETTING

Ettington C of E Primary School will aim to continue operating as normal during any major outbreak, however contingency plans will be put in place where necessary.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOL DURING AN OUTBREAK

The school may either be forced to close for a period of time under the advice of the Local Education Authority or the Department for Education/Health. In the event of mass school closure the Local Authority will cascade the relevant information to all school settings. However, the ultimate closure of the school will lie with the Headteacher in conjunction with the Governing Body. If the decision is made for the school to close during a major outbreak, a review date will be set at the time of closure and this will be communicated with all stakeholders.

It may also be necessary to close part or all of the school if insufficient members of staff are available to work due to ill health. The school will ensure that Staff to Pupil ratios are adhered to at all times and where possible supply agency or part-time staff may be used to maintain safe levels of staffing. The school would also ensure that it only remained open if there are sufficient levels of staff trained in paediatric first aid. If insufficient members of staff are available to continue running the school as normal then priority consideration will be made to those pupils whose parents work in the public, health, education and emergency services.

Unless advised by the DfE or LA, Staff will be expected to attend work as normal during any closure of the school, unless they are ill themselves, considered to be at high risk of spreading the infection or are required to provide care for an ill dependent.

CONTROLLED OPENING OF THE SCHOOL DURING AN OUTBREAK

Parents will be advised to keep their child off school for a period of up to 2 weeks if they show any symptoms of the virus/disease or if a member of their family, community or household, whom they have had close contact with contracts the infection. Advice on periods that a child should be kept off school will be sought from the LA/Health Authority.

Staff will be advised to remain off work for up to 2 weeks if they contract an illness or have had close contact with somebody who has tested positive for the infection.

Parents and staff must ensure that the emergency contact details are up to date so that the necessary relative/carer can be contacted immediately to collect them should they show symptoms of the infection in school.

If any pupil or member of staff becomes ill and it is suspected they may have the infection, they will be separated from the other pupils and staff in one of the SEND bases until they are collected and taken home. Any child placed in isolation will be supervised by an adult and provided with the necessary care to remain comfortable until collected.

MEASURES TO RESTRICT CONTAMINATION/SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Staff and children will be advised to maintain extra vigilance and take extra care to maintain high levels of cleanliness during an outbreak to restrict the transmission of any infection. The following measures will be put in place in the event of a major outbreak:

- All staff and pupils will be encouraged to wash their hands in warm water for at least 20 seconds regularly during the school day, particularly before eating or handling food.
- Staff and pupils will be encouraged to use a hand sanitiser (60% minimum strength) regularly throughout the school day. The school will provide a supply of gel in key locations around the school but also members of the school community will be encouraged to use sanitiser that they have provided themselves from home.
- All staff and pupils will be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose when sneezing, coughing or wiping their nose/mouth. Tissues will be available around the school and people will be encouraged to bring in hand-tissues of their own from home. Tissues must be binned or flushed down the toilet immediately after they have been used.
- The school community will be cleaned thoroughly each day and particular attention will be paid to door handles and surfaces that are frequently touched.
- The school community may require a 'deep clean' should there be an outbreak with the school community - this will be undertaken by a professional company, under the advice of the Local Authority.