



## ***St. Francis' College***

### ***Infectious Diseases***

#### **Introduction**

The 'College' refers to all the staff and pupils of the Prep Department and Senior School which includes Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Pre-Prep (Key Stage 1), Prep (Key Stage 2), and Senior School (Key Stages 3-5).

This policy has been written in line with Part C (Health and Wellbeing) Standard 7 (Boarders' health and wellbeing) and Part F (Boarders' Rights, Advocacy and Complaints) Standard 12 (Contact with parents/carers) of the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (5 September 2022).

#### **Policy Definition**

The College recognises the need for policies and procedures which promote the health and safety of all its pupils and the need to take account of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. It further recognises that many pupils will at some time may become unwell with an infectious disease. The College has a duty of care to the pupils while at school and wishes to do all that is reasonable and practicable to safeguard and promote the welfare of the pupils

#### **Caring for boarders with infectious diseases**

Boarders who are unwell are looked after in the Boarding House and cared for by the nurse and boarding staff, as in their own homes. If a boarder is suffering from a mild infectious disease, such as the common cold, they are able to remain in their own room, if they are accommodated in a single room, or in a designated isolation room, if they normally share a bedroom. This bedroom has access to a designated shower and toilet for the individual who is unwell. The isolation bedroom is situated near to a member of the resident staff, who may be contacted overnight if required. Unwell boarders are permitted to keep their mobile phones overnight, so that they can easily contact the duty member of staff. (NMS 7.3)

Boarders who show signs of a more serious infectious disease, such as flu, Coronavirus (COVID-19), or diarrhoea or vomiting, should take leave from the school for a minimum of 48 hours after symptoms have ceased. For Boarders this means that their parents/guardians will be contacted if they are unwell and they will be required to be collected and cared for at home until they are 48 hours free of symptoms and are well enough to return.

While Boarder's are awaiting collection they shall be moved and isolated in the isolation room, or other designated area, away from their roommates to decrease the risk of the sickness spreading. A toilet and shower will be isolated for the individual's use. All members of boarding staff will be informed and meals, drinks and medication will be brought, as required, for the individual's care and comfort. (NMS 7.3)

The College recognizes that boarders' confidentiality, rights, privacy and dignity as patients is fundamental and is appropriately protected. This includes the right of a boarder deemed to be 'Gillick Competent' to give or withhold consent for their own treatment. (NMS 7.7)

### **Parental contact**

Parents and guardians should be informed if their daughter is unwell and kept up to date of their progress, by telephone or email. The boarding staff will facilitate contact between the unwell boarder and their parents and guardians, taking into consideration possible different time zones by allowing the boarder to speak to their parents out of 'normal hours'. (NMS 12.1)

### **Storage and administration of medication**

Storage and administration of medication all medication is stored safely and securely and accurate records are kept for its administration. Staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need when administering medicines. (NMS 7.6)

All medical consultations, including advice or administration of medicines are recorded on the individual boarder's medical record. In addition, paper records are kept of the stock control of non-prescription medicines, which are kept securely in the medical cabinet.

Boarders who are allowed to self-medicate are assessed as being sufficiently responsible to do so by the boarding nurse. (NMS 7.6)

Discussion and agreement on the consent for use of non-prescription medication in the College should be held with boarders and their families, when an individual commences Boarding at St. Francis' College. The College Nurses approve the use of non-prescription medication for the treatment of minor infectious diseases, such as the common cold. The administration of these medicines is covered by the Boarding Non-Prescription Medicines Policy.

### **Hand washing and safety**

A number of infectious diseases can be spread from one person to another by contaminated hands. These diseases include gastrointestinal infections, such as salmonellosis, and respiratory infections, such as influenza, colds and coronavirus (COVID-19).

The College recognises that hand washing is a key strategy for preventing the spread of infectious diseases. It is particularly important before, during, and after preparing food, as

well as after using the toilet. It ensures that harmful pathogens are not spread from sources that are likely to harbor these pathogens to other areas and food.

Hand washing facilities are available for boarders and staff, and include hot (not exceeding 43°C) and cold water, liquid soap and paper hands towels. Hand washing facilities are available in all toilets and kitchens. Boarders are encouraged and reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating.

**Related policies:**

- Chronic Conditions and Disability Policy
- Non-prescription Medicines Policy
- Medical Emergencies Policy
- Care of Boarders Who Are Unwell Policy

Reviewed By	Head of Boarding
Authorised By	Head
Effective From	January 2023
Next Review Due	January 2025

