

**POLICY NO 17 INFECTION CONTROL POLICY****REV: 5 DATE: 16.08.2021****Policy Statement**

It is the priority of Named service to protect all pre-school attending our service and all persons working in our service from the transmission of infections. The health and well-being of all children, staff and visitors to our service is paramount and our aim is to prevent and manage any infection which may be present in the service. This policy is communicated to all staff and a version of this policy is given to parents.

**Principle**

This policy is underwritten by the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Tusla (2018) Quality and Regulatory Framework.

**Rationale**

Infection can lead to serious ill-health for young children. Infection control procedures seek to reduce the risk of children and staff contracting an illness in Scamps & Scholars by ensuring good hygiene is followed at all times and the risk of infection is minimised. We aim to promote good hygiene practices that children and parents can implement at home.

**Preventing the spread of infection****Risk Assessments**

Risk assessments are undertaken by staff to assess if activities, actions or environments pose risks from an infection control standpoint to the children and staff of Scamps & Scholars.

Actions are implemented to eliminate or reduce the risk identified through risk assessment.

**Hand washing**

- Scamps & Scholars has a hand washing policy in place which all staff promote and model for children. Staff wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating/preparing food, after wiping noses, after waste disposal and mopping up spills, after assisting children going to the toilet, after caring for sick children, after handling soiled clothing, after dealing with waste and after removing disposable gloves.

- A wash hand basin is provided in each room with a constant supply of hot (no greater than 43c) and cold running water, liquid anti-bacterial soap and paper towels. A wash hand basin is available in all bathrooms and kitchens.
- In Scamps & Scholars, Children are encouraged to wash their hands with warm water and liquid soap under supervision after visiting the toilet, before eating, after sneezing, coughing or blowing noses, after handling animals, after touching a cut or sore and after outside play and activities. Clear guidance on handwashing is outlined for children and staff in our service.
- Staff will supervise and assist children to encourage effective handwashing.
- Our staff always wear gloves when preparing and serving food and wash hands after removing gloves.
- Our Staff always wash their hands after removing waste food and materials.
- Appropriate food hygiene practices are followed at all times.
- Perishable food is kept in a refrigerator, between temperatures of 0 and 5 Celsius. Any perishable food left at room temperature for more than 2 hours will be discarded safely.
- Staff involved in helping children with toileting or nappy changing will not be involved in preparing food.



### **Nappy Changing and Toileting**

- We have 3 number of nappy changing rooms in Scamps & Scholars. Nappy changing rooms do not directly communicate with any occupied room or room where food is stored.
- The nappy changing room is adequately ventilated, by window/mechanical ventilation. Where possible, the door to the nappy changing room is kept closed at all times.
- A wash basin is included in the nappy changing room and has hot and cold running water and access to liquid soap and paper towel dispensers.
- Children's hands will be washed and dried after nappy changing, staff will also ensure that they have thoroughly washed their own hands before and after nappy changing.
- Staff that are changing nappies use powder free, synthetic vinyl or latex gloves.
- All nappy changing mats used in Scamps & Scholars are waterproof, in good condition i.e. no exposed stuffing or foam and have an easily cleanable cover. Nappy changing mats are wiped down by staff after each nappy change.
- All nappies are disposed of in a way which will not risk infection. Soiled nappies are stored in an airtight, sealed container that is removed from the premises at least once per day. Nappy disposal containers are enclosed & secure from children. Nappy changing units are cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis.
- All staff are be fully trained and briefed in nappy changing and infection control.

### **Cleaning and the premises**

- All staff are aware of their role in maintaining high standards of hygiene.
- Scamps & Scholars encourages best practice regarding keeping the environment and premises clean and safe.
- Spillages of blood, faeces, urine, vomit or other bodily fluids or excretions are cleaned immediately and with priority. Mops are not be used for these and extreme caution is exercised at all times.
- Daily and/or weekly and/or monthly cleaning schedules are in place and records kept. Cleaning records are located in each room.
- Scamps & Scholars has a contract with a bin removal company for the removal and disposal of all waste at Scamps & Scholars.
- Our premises are free from pests and rodents and we have a contract with an external agent who checks our premises on a regular basis.
- We maintain a good stock of cleaning products and tools to ensure that hygiene practices can be carried out at all times. Adequate supplies for cleaning are provided to be used, like clean cloths, gloves, aprons, mops, buckets and detergents. Cleaning products and supplies are stored in a secure press that is not accessible to children.
- Toys and play materials are cleaned daily, with attention placed on especially soiled items. Toys are not brought into toilet or changing areas.

- Toilets, floors, shelves storing bags, tables and chairs and other areas are cleaned daily to help decrease the spread of infection, cleaning agents used are detailed on our cleaning schedules.
- All linen is washed a minimum once per week and more frequently if necessary. Children do not share bed clothes and all sheets and blankets are stored separately. These items are washed at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate.
- Any soiled clothes are placed in a plastic bag, sealed and sent home with parents/guardians, parents and guardians are informed at collection if clothes being sent home are soiled.
- At least once a day, even in winter, all rooms in the service are aired out.
- All staff receive regular support & supervision in relation to infection control and training is provided.
- Use a disinfectant fogging machine may be used regularly or intermittently to provide extensive disinfection in a short space of time. This is not a substitute to cleaning in the traditional sense.
- We engage the services of a professional contract cleaner to provide a cleaning service for the substantive cleaning that is required for our premises.

### **Immunisation**

- Our immunisation policy is followed at all times with all children and staff.
- On enrolment, parents are asked for their child's immunisation record, this information is recorded on the child's record card.
- Parents/guardians of children who are not immunised are made aware of the dangers of infectious diseases. Parents are encouraged to keep up to date with current vaccination requirements and to ensure that the service is kept informed and the child's record updated when required.
- Parents/guardians are not required to have their children immunised to gain admission to the service but where a child's immunisation record is not up-to-date parents/guardians are encouraged to have their child vaccinated.
- If a child is not immunised, parents/guardians are advised that their children may be excluded from the service during outbreaks of some vaccine preventable diseases such as Measles, Whooping Cough etc., even if their child is well. This is to protect their non-immunised child.
- We provide information leaflets on immunisation schedules, oral hygiene and prevention of infection to parents on request.

### **Animals and pets**




- Handwashing and drying procedures are followed before and after handling any animals and pets that are present in Named Service or that we meet on outings.
- All animals and pets are managed in accordance with required and appropriate instructions for their care.
- Children are supervised with animals at all times.
- All animals visiting Scamps & Scholars are only from reputable sources.

**Illness**

- If a child is unwell, Scamps & Scholars requests that the child is kept at home if they are unable to participate in normal activities and/or if they may be at risk of passing the infection to another child or adult in the service.
- If a child becomes ill while in Scamps & Scholars we request that the child's parent/guardian or person authorised to collect will collect the child within 30 minutes. Sick children are separated from well children where possible in Scamps & Scholars.
- If Scamps & Scholars cannot contact the parents/guardians/emergency contact for a child it may be necessary to transfer the child to hospital via ambulance depending on the severity of their symptoms.
- Unwell children, with a temperature and/or specific signs and symptoms, will be excluded from the service until a diagnosis can be made. Staff can and will use their discretion when admitting a child back into Scamps & Scholars, if they believe the child is still ill and cannot take part in their normal activities they will request that the parent/guardian keeps the child at home.
- Children/Staff must remain at home for at least 48 hours following the last episode of infectious diarrhoea/vomiting.
- Unwell children and staff should only return to Scamps & Scholars when they have fully recovered. The exclusion notes in Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings are followed.
- Staff will report any illness to the manager/designated person in charge.
- A plan will be drawn up to help prevent the spread of the illness and the HSE guidelines: Managing an infectious disease in childcare setting will be followed in the case of a child in the service contracting an infectious illness.

## Notifiable Diseases

Staff are aware of diseases classified as notifiable diseases by the Department of Public Health, a list is detailed below.

Notifiable Diseases and their respective causative pathogens specified to be Infectious Diseases under Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 53 of 2020) February 2020		  	
Disease	Causative Pathogen	Disease	Causative Pathogen
<b>Acute anterior poliomyelitis</b>	Poliavirus	<b>Measles</b>	Measles virus
<b>Ano-genital warts</b>	Human papilloma virus	<b>Meningococcal disease</b>	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>
<b>Anthrax</b>	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	<b>Mumps</b>	Mumps virus
<b><i>Bacillus cereus</i> food-borne infection/intoxication</b>	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	<b>Non-specific urethritis</b>	
<b>Bacterial meningitis (not otherwise specified)</b>		<b>Novel or Rare Antimicrobial-resistant Organism (NRAO)</b>	
<b>Botulism</b>	<i>Clostridium botulinum</i>	<b>Norovirus Infection</b>	Norovirus
<b>Brucellosis</b>	<i>Brucella</i> spp.	<b>Paratyphoid</b>	<i>Salmonella Paratyphi</i>
<b><i>Campylobacter</i> infection</b>	<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	<b>Pertussis</b>	<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>
<b>Carbapenemase producing Enterobacteriaceae, infection or colonisation</b>	Carbapenemase producing Enterobacteriaceae, infection or colonisation	<b>Plague</b>	<i>Yersinia pestis</i>
<b>Chancroid</b>	<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	<b><i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> infection (invasive)</b>	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (blood or CSF)
<b>Chickenpox – hospitalised cases</b>	Varicella-zoster virus	<b>Q Fever</b>	<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>
<b>Chikungunya disease</b>	Chikungunya virus	<b>Rabies</b>	Rabies virus
<b><i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> infection (genital)</b>	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	<b>Respiratory syncytial virus infection</b>	Respiratory syncytial virus
<b>Cholera</b>	<i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	<b>Rotavirus infection</b>	Rotavirus
<b><i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection</b>	<i>Clostridium difficile</i>	<b>Rubella</b>	Rubella virus
<b><i>Clostridium perfringens</i> (type A) food-borne disease</b>	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	<b>Salmonellosis</b>	<i>Salmonella</i> spp. other than <i>S. Typhi</i> and <i>S. Paratyphi</i>
<b>COVID-19</b>	SARS-CoV-2	<b>Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)</b>	SARS-associated coronavirus
<b>Creutzfeldt Jakob disease</b>		<b>Shigellosis</b>	<i>Shigella</i> spp.
<b>variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease</b>		<b>Smaltipox</b>	Varicella virus
<b>Cryptosporidiosis</b>	<i>Cryptosporidium parvum, hominis</i>	<b>Staphylococcal food poisoning</b>	Enterotoxigenic <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
<b>Cytomegalovirus infection (congenital)</b>	Cytomegalovirus	<b><i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> bacteraemia</b>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (blood)
<b>Dengue fever</b>	Dengue virus	<b>Streptococcus group A infection (invasive)</b>	<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> (blood, CSF or other normally sterile site)
<b>Diphtheria</b>	<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i> or <i>ulcerans</i> (toxin producing)	<b>Streptococcus group B infection (invasive)</b>	<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> (blood, CSF or other normally sterile site)
<b>Echinococcosis</b>	<i>Echinococcus</i> spp.	<b>Streptococcus pneumoniae infection (invasive)</b>	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> (blood, CSF or other normally sterile site)
<b>Enterococcal bacteraemia</b>	<i>Enterococcus</i> spp. (blood)	<b>Syphilis</b>	<i>Treponema pallidum</i>
<b><i>Escherichia coli</i> infection (invasive)</b>	<i>Escherichia coli</i> (blood, CSF)	<b>Tetanus</b>	<i>Clostridium tetani</i>
<b>Giardiasis</b>	<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	<b>Toxoplasmosis</b>	<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>
<b>Gonorrhoea</b>	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	<b>Trichinellosis</b>	<i>Trichinella</i> spp.
<b>Granuloma inguinale</b>	<i>Klebsiella granulomatis</i>	<b>Trichomoniasis</b>	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>
<b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> disease (invasive)</b>	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (blood, CSF or other normally sterile site)	<b>Tuberculosis</b>	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> complex
<b>Hepatitis A (acute) infection</b>	Hepatitis A virus	<b>Tularemia</b>	<i>Francisella tularensis</i>
<b>Hepatitis B (acute and chronic) infection</b>	Hepatitis B virus	<b>Typhoid</b>	<i>Salmonella Typhi</i>
<b>Hepatitis C infection</b>	Hepatitis C virus	<b>Typhus</b>	<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i>
<b>Hepatitis E infection</b>	Hepatitis E virus	<b>Verotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i> infection</b>	Verotoxin producing <i>Escherichia coli</i>
<b>Herpes simplex (genital)</b>	Herpes simplex virus	<b>Viral encephalitis</b>	
<b>Herpes simplex (neonatal)</b>	Herpes simplex virus	<b>Viral haemorrhagic fevers</b>	
<b>Human immunodeficiency virus infection</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus	<b>Viral meningitis</b>	
<b>Influenza</b>	Influenza A and B virus	<b>West Nile fever</b>	West Nile virus
<b><i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> infection (invasive)</b>	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (blood or CSF)	<b>Yellow fever</b>	Yellow fever virus
<b>Legionellosis</b>	<i>Legionella</i> spp.	<b>Yersiniosis</b>	<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i> , <i>Yersinia pseudotuberculosis</i>
<b>Leprosy</b>	<i>Mycobacterium leprae</i>	<b>Zika virus infection</b>	Zika virus
<b>Leptospirosis</b>	<i>Leptospira</i> spp.		
<b>Listeriosis</b>	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>		
<b>Lyme disease (neuroborreliosis)</b>	<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>		
<b>Lymphogranuloma venereum</b>	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>		
<b>Malaria</b>	<i>Plasmodium falciparum, vivax, knowlesi, ovale, malariae</i>		
<b>mcg-positive Enterobacteriaceae infection or colonisation</b>	mcg-positive Enterobacteriaceae infection or colonisation		

Please refer to the case definitions for the above diseases. The up-to-date list of diseases and case definitions are available on the HPSC website at [www.hpsc.ie/notifiablediseases](http://www.hpsc.ie/notifiablediseases)

East	North West	South East
<b>Counties Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Room G29, Dr Stevens' Hospital, Dublin 8. Phone: 01 6352145 Fax: 01 6352103	<b>County Donegal</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Iona House, Upper Main Street, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. Phone: 071 9852900 Fax: 071 9852901	<b>Counties Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Lacken, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. Phone: 056 7784142 Fax: 056 7784599
<b>Midlands</b> <b>Counties Laois, Offaly, Longford and Westmeath</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Phone: 057 9359891 Fax: 057 9359907	<b>Counties Sligo and Leitrim</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Bridgewater House, Rockwood Parade, Sligo. Phone: 071 9174750 Fax: 071 9138335	<b>West</b> <b>Counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Merlin Park Hospital, Galway. Phone: 091 775200 Fax: 091 758283
<b>Mid West</b> <b>Counties Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Mount Kennett House, Henry Street, Limerick. Phone: 061 483337 Fax: 061 464205	<b>South</b> <b>County Cork</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Floor 2, Block 8, St Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, Cork. Phone: 021 4927601 Fax: 021 4923257	
<b>North East</b> <b>Counties Cavan, Louth, Meath and Monaghan</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Railway Street, Navan, Co. Meath. Phone: 046 9076412 Fax: 046 9072325	<b>County Kerry</b> Medical Officer of Health, Department of Public Health, Rathass, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Phone: 066 7184548 Fax: 066 7184542	

- When Scamps & Scholars is informed by the Department of Public Health of a diagnosis of a child attending the service or an employee, unpaid worker,

contractor or other person working in the service, as suffering from an infectious disease, the service will notify the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate by filling out the Notification of Incidents Form.

- Scamps & Scholars will contact the Department of Public Health if there is a concern about a communicable disease or infection or if there is an outbreak of infectious disease in the service. The Department of Public Health will also be contacted before sending letters to parents/guardians about an infectious disease. The advice of the Department of Public Health will be followed at all times in regard to the management of infectious diseases.
- Parents will be informed verbally and in writing if an outbreak has occurred – all reasonable information on the outbreak will be provided to them.

This policy links with our –

- Administration of Medication Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Staff absence Policy
- Policy on safe sleep
- Risk management Policy
- Staff training Policy
- Supervision Policy

**APPROVAL DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(On behalf of the Board of Directors)