

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY 2025-2026 Academic Year

POLICY ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Title:	Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Policy
Status:	Mandatory
Approved:	Principal
Responsible for the implementation	Deputy Principal
Review Process:	Annually
Date of Last Review:	N4-01/22/08-25 /22 August, 2025

Policy Statement

- a) This policy covers ways of avoiding infection and communicable diseases, including handwashing, general hygiene and maintaining a clean environment.
- b) The policy should be followed by all BGA staff to provide a happy and healthy environment for every student by preventing and minimizing the spread of infection in our Academy.
- c) To help achieve this we work in partnership with parents. In order to protect the health of the students and staff, we will adhere to the following practices in line with current guidelines.

Guiding Principles

To prevent the spread of infectious and communicable diseases within the Academy.

Target Addressees

The Medical Team, teachers, administrative staff, teaching assistants, students and parents.

Responsibility

The health, safety and environmental committee ensures implementation of the policy to include students/patients, their family members/guardians, close contacts and visitors who should comply with the policy and infection control guidelines in the manual.

Precautionary measures

- **Hand washing** - is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infection. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, lukewarm water and paper towels. The use of non-medicated soap, provided in a dispenser is encouraged. Harsher soap which contains antiseptic (unless required under specific circumstances) should not be used as this can make the hands very dry and potentially chapped, increasing the risk of infection. Hands should always be washed after using the bathroom, before eating or handling food, before and after handling patients.
- **Coughing and Sneezing** - can easily spread infection through droplet nuclei. Students and adults are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing on their sleeve or with a tissue and dispose of the tissue appropriately in a bin.
- **Cleaning of body fluid spillage** - all spillage of vomit, saliva, nasal and eye discharge, blood and faeces should be cleaned up immediately. Disposable gloves and disposable plastic aprons must be worn. When spillage occurs, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and disinfectant.
- **PPE**- Appropriate PPE like masks, gloves etc should be worn whenever necessary while handling patients.
- **School Immunization Program** - School Immunization Programs should be conducted diligently according to the protocol advised by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and an effort should be made to include the maximum number of students who are due and overdue for one/ more vaccines.
- **Disinfection**- Regular disinfection and sanitization practices should be followed.

Return to school after sickness

- **Vomiting and Diarrhea** - In the case of vomiting and diarrhea, the student should not return to the Academy for 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.
- **Fever** - Students should not attend the Academy if they have a fever above 37.5 degrees Celsius. They must be fever free for 24 hours without taking any medication before they can return to the Academy.
- **Respiratory symptoms** - Students with respiratory symptoms like persistent cough, runny nose, sore throat etc will be assessed by the medical team and, if found to be a potential source of infection, will be required to be isolated and picked up by the parents. They can return to the Academy only on provision of a medical certificate when they are totally symptom-free.
- **Unexplained rash** - A student with an unexplained/ undiagnosed rash needs to visit a dermatologist and get a medical certificate with a proper diagnosis before he can return to the Academy.
- **Wounds** - If a student has an infected or oozing wound, it must be properly cleaned and covered by a well-sealed dressing.
- **Conjunctivitis** - Any student with red/ pink eye is brought to the clinic for assessment. In case discharge/ watering is noted or the symptoms are severe, the nurse will call the parents to pick the student from the Academy.
- **Head Lice** -
 - a) If it is suspected that a child has head lice, they will be sent to the Academy clinic for examination. If confirmed to have lice, parents will be notified to pick up their child for appropriate treatment. The student can return to the Academy once the treatment has been started. The student should be checked by a member of the medical team prior to returning to class.
 - b) A notification will be sent out to parents of students in the same class to advise them to be vigilant to the possibility of head lice infestation.
 - c) The whole class is checked for head lice infestation and the same procedure is followed for every confirmed case.

For more details about the procedure, see Head Lice Policy.

- **Exclusion periods**- Exclusion periods as advised by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection for various infectious diseases should be strictly followed.

General measures

- Maintaining a clean environment is essential in good infection control. Adequate waste disposal bins should be provided throughout the Academy. Regular cleaning of non-contaminated surfaces (e.g. table tops, toilet seats) should take place with standard cleaning solutions.
- General and medical wastes should be discarded separately. General wastes such as; papers, plastics, and other materials not contaminated with chemicals and blood are disposed of in designated bins for general wastes.

- Medical wastes such as sharps (needles), cotton with blood, cloth, wound dressings and other materials contaminated with blood and chemicals are disposed of separately in a designated medical waste container to be collected by the medical waste collection contractor.
- Reporting of Communicable Diseases as per Ministry of Health and Social Protection guidelines in Schools are required to report diseases and the number of individuals affected. Vaccine-preventable diseases should be reported immediately and appropriate action taken to ensure the protection of other children and adults in the Academy setting.
- Proper clinic logs are maintained by the medical team to ensure that contact tracing, if required, can be done in case of suspected exposure.
- All the members of the medical team undergo Infection control training and renew the certification at required intervals.