



## **hygiene and Infection Control**

**Linked to Regulation 56 of The Regulated Services (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals) (Wales) Regulations 2017**

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### **Aim:**

To ensure that there is clear understanding and oversight of hygiene and infection control in Merthyr Tydfil's children's residential homes. This policy will ensure that we have satisfactory standards of hygiene in the delivery of the service and appropriate disposal of general and clinical waste. This policy is to enable staff to understand the control of infection and minimise the spread of infection and how to work in line with this.

### **Scope:**

Infection control is the name given to a range of policies, procedures and techniques intended to prevent the spread of infectious diseases amongst staff, children and visitors to our homes. All of the staff working in the homes are at risk of infection or of spreading infection, especially if their role brings them into contact with blood or bodily fluids like urine, faeces, vomit or sputum. Such substances may well contain pathogens which can be spread if staff do not take adequate precautions.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council accepts that adherence to strict guidelines on infection control is of paramount importance in ensuring the safety of both children and staff. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council believes that good, basic hygiene is the most powerful weapon against infection, particularly with respect to hand washing.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council aims to ensure that:

- Children, their families and staff are as safe as possible from acquiring infections from any source.
- All staff are aware of and put into practice the basic principles of infection control.

## **Communicable Diseases**

Communicable diseases refer to a range of diseases that can be spread due to poor infection control techniques or standards. Examples of such diseases include:

- hepatitis
- tuberculosis
- MRSA
- food poisoning, through organisms e.g., salmonella
- legionnaires' disease
- AIDS
- E. Coli.
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Communicable diseases are the responsibility of Public Health and are managed by local consultants in communicable disease control. The Public Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 1988 place a duty on employers to adopt safe practices to prevent the spread of infection.

## **Personnel**

The registered manager is responsible for infection control risk assessment and staff training.

The daily shift leader together with the registered manager is responsible for checking fridge temperatures daily and ensuring that staff follow infection control procedures.

All staff are responsible for the cleaning and hygiene of the home.

## **Infection Control Procedures**

All staff are required to make infection control a key priority and to act at all times in a way that is compatible with safe, modern and effective infection control practice.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council will make every effort to ensure that all staff have access to sufficient facilities and supplies of appropriate equipment to ensure that they can implement effective infection control procedures and techniques.

Any staff who do not feel they have access to sufficient facilities and supplies of appropriate equipment to ensure that they can implement effective infection control procedures and techniques have a duty to inform the home manager.

## **Effective Hand Washing**

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council accepts that the majority of cross-infection in a care environment is caused by unwashed or poorly washed hands and environmental contamination, which provide an effective transfer route for micro-organisms.

It follows the basic principle that regular, effective hand washing and drying, when done correctly, is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

All staff should, at all times, observe high standards of hygiene to protect themselves and young people from the unnecessary spread of infection. All staff must therefore ensure that their hands are thoroughly washed and dried:

- between seeing each and every young person resident where direct contact is involved no matter how minor the contact
- after handling any body fluids or soiled items
- after using the toilet
- before handling foodstuffs.
- before and after any care or medical activity e.g. dressing wounds.

Hands should be washed thoroughly according to current healthcare guidelines. Liquid soaps and disposable paper towels should be used rather than bar soaps and fabric towels.

All cuts or abrasions, particularly on the hands, should be covered with waterproof dressings at all times.

Ordinary soap is considered to be effective for routine use in removing dirt and reducing levels of transient micro-organisms on the skin to acceptably safe levels.

Antiseptic hand washing solutions may also be used in situations where effective hand washing is not possible.

## **The Use of Protective Clothing**

Adequate and suitable personal protective equipment and clothing will be provided when required.

All staff performing personal care must use disposable aprons. Disposable gloves must be worn when coming into direct contact with bodily fluids.

Sterile gloves are provided for first aid procedures such as applying dressings. These are for one-time use only and on no account should staff attempt to wash and reuse the gloves.

The responsibility for ordering and ensuring that supplies of gloves and aprons are readily available and accessible lies with registered manager.

MTCBC endeavours to use non-latex products, any member of staff who suspects that they or a young person might be suffering from an allergic reaction to the gloves provided should stop using them immediately and inform their line manager. They should then consult their GP.

## **Food Hygiene**

All staff should ensure that all food prepared at the homes is prepared, cooked, stored and presented in line with the high standards required by the Food Safety Act 1990 and the Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2006.

Any member of staff who becomes ill while handling food should report at once to his or her line manager.

Any storage or handling of food in the home raises a potential risk of food poisoning so the highest standards of hygiene must be observed by all staff at all times.

Staff must follow all food storage recommendations and observe sell-by and use-by dates scrupulously.

## **Reporting**

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) requires an organisation to report the outbreak of notifiable diseases to the Health and Safety Executive.

Notifiable diseases include: cholera, food poisoning, smallpox, typhus, dysentery, measles, meningitis, mumps, rabies, rubella, tetanus, typhoid fever, viral haemorrhagic fever, hepatitis, whooping cough, leptospirosis, tuberculosis and yellow fever.

Records of any such outbreak must be kept, specifying dates and times and a completed disease report form must be sent to the Health and Safety Executive.

In the event of an incident the Registered Manager is responsible for informing the Health and Safety Executive at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

Feedback Form			
Name of Policy:			
Please insert identifying details from ‘Document History’ from the front cover			
Version Number:		Status: (draft/final)	
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<p>The <b>Policy Development Group</b> would value your suggestions and comments for consideration for the next <b>Review</b>. We would really like your feedback on this document and would welcome your views on what should be added, taken away, or changed. We would also like to be advised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Related evidence based practice or training issues</li><li>• Any areas of practice which would benefit service user care by being added to the document, or any other aspects of practice which should be included here</li><li>• Any factual errors or inaccuracies in the document</li><li>• Other related issues which would help inform the Policy.</li></ul> <p>Please use the space below and overleaf for your comments.</p> <p>It would be helpful if you could date your comments.</p> <p>Please feel free to add or withhold your own identifying details as you see fit.</p> <p>Please return your views to</p> <p>If you would like this information in another language or format, please contact the Responsible Individual</p>			