

NAG 5—Health and Safety

Infection Control Policy

Rationale

The Board has responsibilities arising from the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 to ensure the health and safety of all workers, students, visitors, and contractors while undertaking School activities in the workplace.

Infection and occupational health screening is also required by District Health Boards for staff working in hospitals and who have contact with patients.

This policy is in recognition that NHS works with a number of students who may be immunocompromised, and/or susceptible to infections due to their health.

Purpose

- a) To provide and maintain a safe and healthy workplace for all employees, students and other people in the workplace, by reducing the risk of infection to others.
- b) To prevent and reduce the spread of communicable diseases and other associated infections between employees, students, visitors and contractors, including appropriate isolation and infection control procedures.

Guidelines

- a) NHS provides resources for all staff, students, visitors and contractors to practice good hygiene and infection control practices to control the spread of infections within NHS premises and facilities. This includes adequate personal hygiene and hand washing facilities, and appropriate cleaning contracts for cleanliness of equipment and facilities.
- b) If a NHS staff member or student has a contagious illness they are expected to stay at home until symptoms have either disappeared or they are advised by a medical professional they are no longer contagious.
- c) Evidence of immunity to, or immunisation for, vaccine-preventable communicable diseases as per Ministry of Health National Immunisation Schedule including measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, covid 19 and pertussis; and no evidence of active tuberculosis are:
 - required as part of pre-employment screening for all new staff
 - requested from all existing staff, along with evidence of any medical reason for not being immunised
 - recorded in the school data base
- d) Evidence of vaccination status for covid 19 as per Ministry of Health Covid 19 Immunisation Register are:
 - required as part of pre-employment screening for all new staff
 - requested from all existing staff, along with evidence for medical exemptions for not being vaccinated
 - recorded in school data base
- e) Staff are responsible for keeping up to date on developments pertaining to covid 19 vaccinations and acting accordingly. This includes boosters.
- f) Evidence will, where requested, be provided to the relevant District Health Board occupational health and safety department as part of obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.
- g) The pupil admission form will include immunisation status as per National Immunisation Schedule which will then be recorded in the school data base.

- h) All students, staff, and visitors to any NHS site will comply with requirements under Section 70 of Health Act 1956, Covid 19 Public Health Response Act 2020, Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, and any other relevant legislation relating to public health measures and infection control.
- i) The Board will pay for any vaccinations or testing related to employment by school staff.
- j) When requested by a Medical Officer of Health during an outbreak, the Board may require any staff or students who do not have evidence of immunity to stay at home.

Adopted	<u>May 2022</u>
Chairperson	<u></u>
Review Date	<u>May 2025</u>