

Health Protection and Managing Infectious Illness Policy

St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School

This policy is designed to accompany the DfE issued guidance to schools. Infection, such as seasonal influenza, may transmit rapidly between children of school age, prompting the occurrence of localised outbreaks within schools. It is important to note that localised outbreaks in school settings may precede circulation of infection in the wider population.

The main element of preparedness for schools against such disease is awareness of the vaccination programmes among parents of eligible children, including those children in clinical risk groups. Many schools have existing arrangements to identify influenza-like illness among pupils such as monitoring of related absences. Schools should also be aware of existing local mechanisms to seek advice in relation to observed increases of influenza-like illness, including risk assessment of potential outbreak situations. In most localities, this will involve the local PHE Centre Health Protection Team.

Procedure

In the event of a suspected outbreak of infection, the Headteacher (or member of staff nominated by the Headteacher) will contact the local health protection team for Slough (PHE Thames Valley Health Protection Team, Chilton, OX11 0RQ Tel: 0344 225 3861) to discuss the situation and agree any action.

An outbreak may be defined as:

- an incident in which 2 or more people experiencing a similar illness are linked in time or place.
- a greater than expected rate of infection compared with the usual background rate for the place and time where the outbreak has occurred.

The management of specific infectious diseases, including required student absence, any required closure and the subsequent cleaning of the environment will follow agreed action from the local PHE and Government issued guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/831861/Schools_guidance_ILI_Outbreaks_Sep19.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

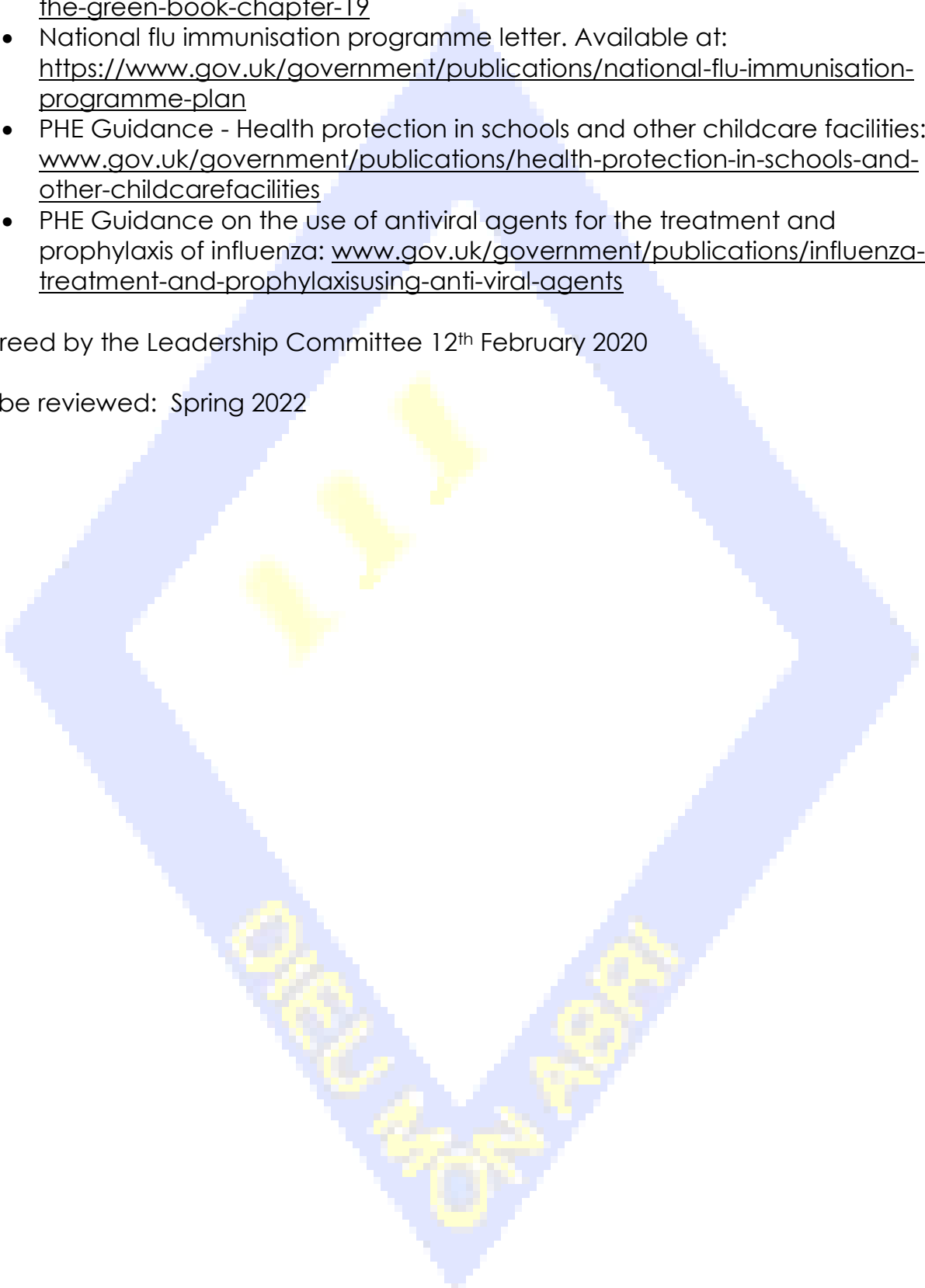
A full list of notifiable illnesses can be found in Appendix A; whilst a link to a table outlining required absence periods for specific illnesses is detailed in Appendix B.

References

- Immunisation against infectious diseases (The Green Book), Chapter 19: Influenza. Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19
- National flu immunisation programme letter. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan>
- PHE Guidance - Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities: www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcarefacilities
- PHE Guidance on the use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza: www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-treatment-and-prophylaxisusing-anti-viral-agents

Agreed by the Leadership Committee 12th February 2020

To be reviewed: Spring 2022



Appendix A

Diseases notifiable to local authority proper officers under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010:

- Acute encephalitis
- Acute infectious hepatitis
- Acute meningitis
- Acute poliomyelitis
- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Brucellosis
- Cholera
- Diphtheria
- Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)
- Food poisoning
- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)
- Infectious bloody diarrhoea
- Invasive group A streptococcal disease
- Legionnaires' disease
- Leprosy
- Malaria
- Measles
- Meningococcal septicaemia
- Mumps
- Plague
- Rabies
- Rubella
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- Scarlet fever
- Smallpox
- Tetanus
- Tuberculosis
- Typhus
- Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)
- Whooping cough
- Yellow fever

Report other illness that may present significant risk under 'other significant disease'.

Appendix B

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/789369/Exclusion_table.pdf

