



## PROCEDURE ON THE CONTAINMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, DRAWN UP IN AGREEMENT WITH THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

Approved by the Administrative Board on 02.02.2022

### 1. Purpose

Schools involve a large part of the population who are often in close proximity to one another, often share supplies and equipment. They are thus settings where diseases can spread quickly. This is particularly relevant for European Schools in Brussels, which host thousands of pupils and school personnel on a daily basis.

Plans and strategies need to be put in place to keep our school community safe and healthy, which requires collaboration, communication, equipment, efficient protocols, and a clear information to staff, pupils, and families. The School has, in that regard, learned a lot during the Covid-19 pandemic in terms of responsiveness, adaptability, proper planning and management containment.

Since it is hardly possible to anticipate the specifics of each public health emergency, the aim of the present procedure is to outline the roles and responsibilities of the involved school stakeholders.

### 2. Scope

The present procedure applies to all school personnel, pupils, legal guardians, external providers and visitors of the School.

### 3. Roles and responsibilities

#### 3.1. School Director

Pursuant to article 15 of the General rules of the European Schools, the Director is responsible for safety and security on school premises.

To that end, the Director shall have the following prerogatives and duties:

- a) In agreement with the School medical service, draw up the relevant procedures and protocols to tackle a specific infectious disease. These are communicated to all parties involved by e-mail and/or published on the school website.
- b) Ensure their implementation and monitoring.
- c) Notify the relevant national authorities, in compliance with the legal obligation the School is subject to. The School follows, among others, the requirements set by the notifiable transmittable diseases act, drawn up by the Brussels' health authorities (COCOM), available at the following address: <https://www.ccc-ggc.brussels/fr/politique-de-la-sante/maladies-transmissibles>.
- d) Deliver accurate, consistent and timely information to all parties involved in the event of an outbreak.
- e) Collaborate with the relevant services within the School community (i.e. canteen, bus, extra-curricular activities, after-school childcare centre), in order to ensure the safety and well-being of the School community's members. Any processing of personal data arising from this collaboration will be carried out in compliance with the data protection obligations resulting from EU Regulation 2016/679.
- f) Upon advice of the school medical service, decide the isolation of any sick or indisposed child from their class and invite their parents to collect their child from the infirmary without undue delay. If the Director is informed by the school infirmary of a *suspected* case of infectious disease, parents are moreover requested to consult with a doctor before their child(ren) is allowed back in School.



### 3.2. School medical service

- a) The school medical service issues individual or collective prophylactic or preventive measures. It transmits them to the School management, which oversees their implementation and communication to parents.
- b) The school medical service must, at all times, provide pupils, their parents or guardians, the authorities and school staff practical advice, in order to prevent the occurrence and the spread of infectious diseases. These advices are threefold and concern:
  - The patients themselves, that is, the pupil or member of the school staff;
  - The pupils or staff who have regular contact with the patient;
  - General hygiene measures.

### 3.3. Parents and legal representatives

Primary responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious diseases lies with individuals, families and public health authorities. The school cannot be expected to provide expert advice or treat pupils, which is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities.

The role parents and legal representatives can play in supporting the School's response to an outbreak is thus invaluable.

In particular, parents and legal guardians are kindly requested to:

- a) Notify the Director in writing as soon as their child(-ren) contracts an infectious disease. Parents are invited to follow, when applicable, the dedicated notification process communicated by the School.
- b) Scrupulously adhere to the rules on the containment of infectious diseases laid out in the relevant procedures and protocols, in accordance with article 3.1 of the present procedure.
- c) Comply with the quarantine for their child and other pupils living under the same roof. The pupil shall be readmitted to the school on production, where applicable, of a medical certificate from their physician.
- d) Advise the school medical service if their child has a special medical condition, such as immunosuppression, that renders him more vulnerable to some contagious disease. A school nurse will inform the parents if such case is reported in the School.

## 4. Privacy and medical secrecy

Any medical information concerning a pupil or a member of the staff is treated in accordance with the principles of confidentiality as per the general data protection requirements.

The school medical service personnel are bound by professional secrecy and process pupils' and staff' personal data in accordance with the applicable national regulations and the School's privacy policies available on its website at the following address: <https://www.eeb3.eu/en/policies-and-rules-4/data-protection-policy/>

## 5. Entry into force

The present procedure shall enter into effect the day of its adoption by the School's Administrative Board and be published on the school website.