



PEMBROKE HOUSE



PANDEMIC POLICY

A whole-school policy including the EYFS



Human Flu Pandemic

The Flu Virus

This guidance is for all those involved in responding to a classified flu pandemic. Such flu is different to normal flu, as it occurs when a new flu virus emerges into the population and spreads rapidly from person to person worldwide. As a new flu virus, it is unlikely that there will be immunity to it or that there will be a vaccine available. Health Protection Agency ('HPA') advice forms the basis of this guidance.

Objectives

- To maintain the health and welfare of pupils and staff, and to ensure appropriate action is taken.
- To have appropriate procedures in place for managing such an incident.
- To ensure suitable and timely communication during such an incident.

Guidance

The Head and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be responsible for the implementation of this policy.

The symptoms of pandemic flu are very similar to those of normal flu but are likely to be more serious:

- Fever, cough, shortness of breath.
- Aching muscles, sore throat, headache, loss of appetite, sneezing.

The incubation period is approximately 4 days, and the infectious period is said to last for 7 days. These details will vary depending on the virus concerned.

The school understands that, should this illness reach Pembroke House, the children and staff will spread this illness, and we therefore must have measures in place for the school to remain open and in case, after discussion with Council, it is felt that the school should close. We understand that our pupils travel to school from far and wide, and it is always the school's responsibility to take care of the children and assist them at all times.

Pupils with symptoms of the virus will be isolated in San away from other pupils until arrangements can be made for them to go home. Staff will be isolated in either their own homes or in San, as necessary. Should pupils or staff develop symptoms whilst at home, they should not come to school until all symptoms have passed.

Whilst school is open, all practices in relation to good hygiene will be followed. Parents will be kept informed of the situation through the school office, following advice from the Head and SLT.

New Policy: February 2020 - DBM, MA, DELL, AO, CT, RV

Next Review: September 2020



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The nursing team will stay in close contact with the school doctor and the doctors in Nairobi, who regularly advise the school. Their advice will be shared and followed. The school will ensure it has an increased supply of the medication advised by the doctors, including oxygen.

To reduce the risk of spreading the disease, hygiene measures will include:

- Following good hygiene measures in the kitchen, in dorms and around the school in general.
- Regular hand washing, with a special hand cleanser available for children and staff to use.
- Additional tissues available for children and staff to use with appropriate advice on their disposal.
- We will ensure additional cleaning of hard surfaces including desks, tables and chairs.
- The sharing of classroom equipment will be discouraged.
- There will be careful cleaning of musical instruments and no sharing of wind or brass musical instruments.
- Pupils and staff will be educated in matters regarding hygiene.
- As far as possible, we will avoid bringing pupils together in enclosed spaces.
- Posters supporting and promoting good hygiene, and sensible practice will be displayed prominently around school.
- Visitors to the school will be closely screened and in principle discouraged during this time.
- The San will be used as the area for isolation.

In case of school closure

Should the school close, parents will be informed via email from the Head. The school will also contact all parents individually to help with the arrangements to transport their children home. All children will be looked after until such time that the appropriate arrangements for their journey home have been made.

On advice that the school can reopen

Information will be shared via email from the Head. The school secretary will get in touch with parents who usually use school transport, to see how the school can best make arrangements to help. Arrangements will be put in place following advice from the school doctor and the WHO on appropriate cleaning of the school before the children and staff return.

Once open, the school will continue to monitor the situation and will stay in close contact with parents.



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Information to be communicated will include:

- Infection control guidance.
- Use of personal protective equipment when supervising an ill child.
- Advice from the school doctor and other specialist advice from the team of doctors who advise the school.
- Instructions for all staff so they fully understand how the virus is passed from person to person.
- Pupils:
 - Guidance on personal hygiene.
 - Guidance using posters around school.
 - Guidance using school protocols.
- Parents:
 - Update parents on the global situation via email.
 - Update parents on the situation in the local area and at school.
 - Telephone calls as necessary, co-ordinated by the Head and SLT with further information.