

# **Midstream (West Lancs) Ltd.**

## **INFECTION CONTROL**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The following policy is to ensure that everyone at Midstream (West Lancs) Ltd understands their roles & responsibilities when controlling the risk of infections.

**Whilst it is the intention to promote equal opportunities for individuals who attend sessions delivered by Midstream (West Lancs) Ltd, it is imperative that persons believed to be unwell with an infectious disease DO NOT attend. Please note that parents should keep clients at home if they are acutely unwell or infectious. Midstream will send home anyone who is acutely unwell or infectious.**

### **2 AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

This policy aims to provide guidance when preparing for, and in the event of, an outbreak of an infectious incident.

It contains a checklist of actions to aid planning and preparing for an outbreak of an infectious incident and clarifies communication procedures.

### **3 PRINCIPLES**

Midstream (West Lancs) Ltd. recognises that infections are not new, and that no-one knows exactly when the organisation will be faced with having to deal with a potentially contagious illness amongst its community.

We recognise the need to be prepared, as infections are likely to spread particularly rapidly in our setting. Where vulnerable individuals may have a compromised immunity, they could be amongst the groups worst affected.

We recognise that closing the organisation for a period of time may be necessary in exceptional circumstances in order to control an infection. However we will strive to remain open unless advised otherwise.

Good pastoral care includes promoting healthy living. Staff will give clients positive messages regarding health and wellbeing through lessons and vocational training activities.

### **4 PLANNING AND PREPARING**

In the event of the organisation becoming aware that a client or member of staff has an infectious illness we would inform Parents & Carers by letter.

During an outbreak of an infectious illness, Midstream (West Lancs) Ltd will seek to operate as normally as possible but will remain open or closed based on medical evidence.

### **5 INFECTION CONTROL**

Infections are usually spread from person to person by close contact, for example:

- Infected people can pass a virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing or even talking within a close distance.
- Through direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- By touching objects (e.g. door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.

**Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.**

Staff and clients are given the following advice about how to reduce the risk of passing on infections to others:

- Wash your hands regularly, particularly after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Minimise contact between your hands and mouth/nose, unless you have just washed your hands.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not attend Midstream (West Lancs) Ltd if you think you may have an infectious illness.
- If you feel ill during the day go to a staff member who will report to a member of the management team. Parents or Carers of clients will be contacted if it is felt that the individual is not well enough to remain at Midstream (West Lancs) Ltd.

- **HAND SANITISERS ARE ISSUED TO STAFF MEMBERS, AND MUST BE CARRIED AT ALL TIMES TO BE USED WHEN REQUIRED.**
- **STATIC SANITISER POINTS ARE AFFIXED TO DOORWAYS LEADING INTO FOOD PREPARATION AREAS. ALL STAFF, CLIENTS MUST USE THESE POINTS WHEN ENTERING AND EXITING THESE AREAS.**
- **DISPOSABLE APRONS AND GLOVES MUST BE WORN BY ANY STAFF MEMBER ASSISTING A CLIENT WITH PERSONAL CARE.**
- **WHEN PERSONAL CARE HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, THE DISPOSABLE APRON & GLOVES MUST BE DISGARDED IN THE APPROPRIATE RECEPTICLE FOR DISPOSAL & HAND SANITISER APPLIED.**

Midstream (West Lancs) Ltd. employs Estates Staff who have responsibility for all daily cleaning. Antibacterial cleaning agents are to be used where appropriate, and all cleaning equipment is to be “fit for purpose.”

All damaged and unsuitable equipment must not be used, withdrawn from service and reported to the appropriate member of management.

## **6 SUPPORT FOR STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND CARERS**

Midstream (West Lancs) Ltd has full-time First Aid and Nursing staff who will assess students, clients and staff before recommending further action.

Individuals who are believed to have an infectious illness are sent home and are advised to contact their GP or local hospital.

## **7 MONITORING AND EVALUATING**

The Senior Management Team will evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and agree adjustments that may be necessary to address any current concerns. These will be shared with staff, parents/carers.