

Infectious Diseases

Every school community is susceptible to a wide range of bacterial and viral infections throughout the year. To minimise the spread of infections, our school encourages basic hygiene practices amongst students and staff at all times. We use heightened hygiene practices as appropriate when there is a known presence of, or risk of, a highly contagious and debilitating infection (e.g. influenza virus or norovirus).

Basic hygiene measures

Coatesville School promotes basic hygiene measures to help stop the spread of infectious diseases. This includes key messages such as:

- wash your hands regularly
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- cover your coughs and sneezes.

Hand hygiene

Hand hygiene is the best way to prevent the spread of infections – this means washing and drying your hands really well.

Reminding students and staff how to wash and dry their hands effectively will help to keep everyone well.

It is important to wash and dry your hands after you have been to the toilet, before you have anything to eat, whenever your hands feel dirty, and before eating or preparing food.

Coughs and sneezes

We remind students and staff to cover their coughs and sneezes. This means using a tissue (and disposing of it immediately), using the inside of your elbow ("the Dracula"), or cupping your hands over your mouth/nose and then washing your hands straight away.

Staying away from school

To stop sickness from spreading, students should be kept at home when they are ill. How long they should be at home depends on their illness.

The Ministry of Health gives advice on when students and staff should stay away from school when they are unwell with a more serious infection/illness.

[Infectious diseases and school exclusion](#) (this official MOH poster is on our website under 'H & S')

The poster covers a wide range of infectious diseases and conditions which can affect school communities.