



Infection Prevention and Control Policy, 02 2018

Introduction

Bishop Creighton House (BCH) is a multipurpose charity and community centre in Hammersmith & Fulham committed to the health and safety of all staff, volunteers and clients. As part of the Health and Safety policy, BCH takes the responsibility to make all staff and volunteers aware of the core principles and practices for preventing and controlling the spread of infection.

Summary

This Policy outlines practices required to minimise the risk of staff, visitors, volunteers and clients acquiring any communicable/non-communicable infection.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the BCH policy is to make aware and educate staff how to effectively prevent, manage communicable/non-communicable infection, in order to minimise the adverse health impacts on staff and beneficiaries of BCH.

Responsible People

All members of BCH: trustees, CEO, all staff including cleaners, clients, volunteers and visitors etc.

- **Trustees, Managers**

Managers have a responsibility to report relevant noticeable infection/ diseases

- **Co-ordinators, administrative staff, learning support assistants, cleaning staff**

All staff have an important role in the prevention and control of infection which is an integral part of caring for clients and the health and safety of staff.

- **Clients, Volunteers, Visitors**

Need to be made aware of and encouraged to follow this policy and any procedure BCH has in place.

Causes of Infection

Bacteria are minute organisms about one-thousandth to five- thousandth of a millimeter in diameter. They are susceptible to a greater or lesser extent to antibiotics. Found in air, water, soil, in food, and on the bodies of humans and animals e.g. MRSA.

Viruses are much smaller than bacteria and although they may survive outside the body for a time they can only grow inside cells of the body. It should be assumed that all people may be carrying a virus but may not to pass on this information or be aware of it. Viruses are not susceptible to antibiotics and can cause diseases such as flu, mumps, HIV/Aids or Hepatitis.

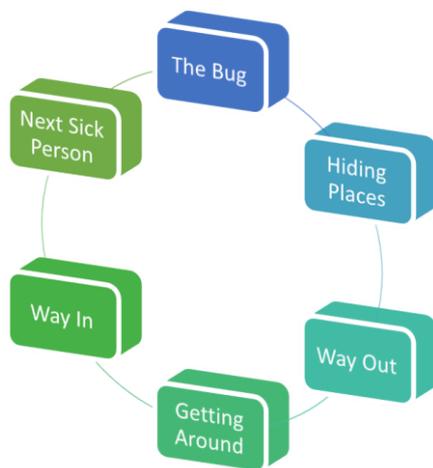
Pathogenic Fungi can be either moulds or yeasts. For example, thrush or ringworm

Protozoa are microscopic organisms, but larger than bacteria. An example is *Giardia lamblia* which can cause an enteritis (symptoms of diarrhea).

Parasites worms are not always microscopic in size but pathogenic worms do cause infection and some can spread from person. Examples include threadworm and tapeworm.

Ectoparasites example head lice and scabies.

The Chain of Infection



- Affects any organ or system of the body
- Can pass from person to person
- Ranges from mild to serious and can be fatal
- Causes symptoms and can make an individual look and feel unwell
- Most can be treated and many can be prevented with simple measures.

Types of Infection

- **Systemic** – affects the whole body e.g. tonsillitis causes painful inflamed tonsils, but also causes a fever and aching body and temperature.
- **Localised**- confined to specific area e.g. i.e. infected finger which is painful, swollen inflamed but does not affect rest of the body.
- **Colonisation**- micro-organisms grow and multiply on body surfaces particularly around skin breaks without causing harm, they become part of a person's normal 'flora' and the person affected is known as a carrier.

Signs and Symptoms of Infection

- Flushed and sweaty painful aching joints, generally feeling unwell Lack of appetite
- Raised temperature
- Enlarged lymph glands in the neck, armpits or groin
- Change in behaviour- agitation, restlessness and confusion, Rash

- Diarrhoea and vomiting
- Inflammation and swelling
- Blood in urine, faeces or sputum, discharge which can smell offensive

Why is infection control important?

- People can suffer and die
- People using health and care services are usually more vulnerable and need protecting
- Infection is more likely spread when vulnerable people are together. Infection costs health care services huge amounts of money. Education and work time is lost when people are off sick
- Infection can spread quickly affecting whole populations right across the world
- It can impact on people's social and family life
- New diseases develop and old diseases reappear- infection never goes away
- Some infections have become resistant to standard treatments

Susceptible Hosts

- Children
- Elderly
- Immuno-compromised vulnerable persons

Breaking the Chain of Infection

- Safe Systems of Work
- Hand Washing
- Protective Clothing
- Appropriate Cleaning
- Inform, Instruct, Train and Supervise (IITS)

Management of Infection

- Hand washing and/or anti-bacterial gel
- Pre-operative patient screening
- Staff screening
- Improved cleaning
- Policy and procedure

Reasons or excuses?

- Lack of appropriate hand washing facilities
- Ignorance
- Wearing gloves
- Skin complaints
- Work pressures

Hand Hygiene and Skin Care

- There are two methods of hand decontamination which are handwashing and the use of hand rubs, both alcohol and non- alcohol based.
- Hand decontamination is recognised as the single most effective method of controlling infection.

Hands must be decontaminated:

- Before and after each session with client/s
- After using the toilet, blowing your nose or covering a sneeze
- Whenever hands become visibly soiled
- After contact with body fluids
- Before eating or drinking

Note that anti-bacterial gels are only effective for visibly clean hands.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

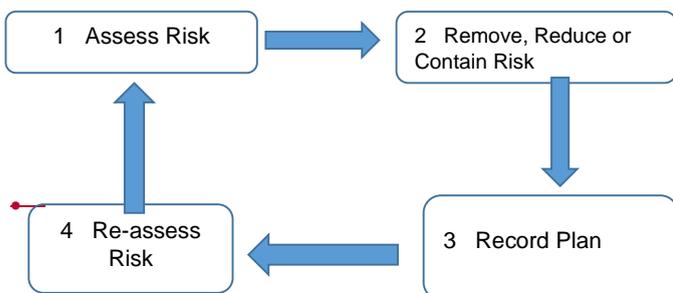
- Disposable Gloves
- Disposable Aprons
- Disposable Masks
- Overshoes
- Safety Glasses
- Hair Nets/Caps



At BCH (if appropriate) volunteers will be given a pack with disposable gloves, disposable aprons, plasters and anti-bacterial gel . Any cuts should be covered with a plaster.
Reducing the Risk of Infection

- A Risk Assessment is required before a task is carried out on what have I just done; what am I about to do in real time situation; what equipment do I need; am I at risk; how susceptible is the host; disposing of waste

Risk Assessment Process



Legislation and Regulations

- The Health & Safety at Work 1974
- Management of Health & Safety of Work 1999
- The Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984
- Food Safety Act 1990
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990
- The Health Protection Agency Act 2004
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- The Reporting of Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations 1995
- The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1998
- The Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995
- The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991
- The Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005

Note to Remember

- Inadequate hand hygiene = A Health Care Associated **i**nfection which could result in **a** client's death

Further Information

- The Health & Safety Executive: www.hse.gov.uk
- The World Health Organisation (WHO): www.who.int
- The Health Protection Agency (HPA): www.hpa.org.uk
- The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE): www.nice.org.uk
- The Food Agency Standards: www.food.gov.uk