

Infection Control Policy

1. Policy Statement

The Afterschool Service is committed to promoting a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff and visitors by implementing effective infection prevention and control practices.

The service will take all reasonable measures to reduce the spread of infectious diseases through good hygiene practices, monitoring of illness, appropriate exclusion procedures and clear communication with parents and relevant authorities where required.

This policy is available to parents, staff and relevant stakeholders and will be reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with public health guidance and best practice.

2. Immunisation Records

The service maintains a record of each child's immunisation status as provided by the parent/guardian during the registration process.

Where a child is not immunised or partially immunised:

- Parents/guardians will inform the service of the child's immunisation status.
- Parents will be informed if there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.
- Children who are not immunised may be temporarily excluded during an outbreak based on HSE Public Health advice.

3. Infection Prevention and Hygiene Practices

The service promotes infection prevention through:

Handwashing - the service requires all staff and children to follow the hand hygiene procedures outlined in Appendix A and displayed throughout the facility and the routine as in Appendix B. Staff are expected to model good hand hygiene practices and ensure children follow established hand-washing routines throughout the session.

Respiratory hygiene (covering coughs and sneezes)

Daily cleaning of tables, chairs, kitchen and food preparation areas.

Daily cleaning and disinfection of toilet and handwashing facilities.

Regular cleaning of toys, equipment and frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches and shared resources.

Immediate cleaning and disinfection of areas contaminated by bodily fluids.

Safe disposal of waste in designated bins.

Cleaning schedules are maintained and monitored by the Service Manager.

4. Managing Illness in the Service

The following will take place if a child becomes unwell during the session:

- The child will be supervised and made comfortable.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.
- The child will be separated from group activities where appropriate while awaiting collection.
- Staff will follow infection control procedures and cleaning protocols.
- Any illness incident will be recorded.

Children will be excluded from the service until the passing of the recommended exclusion period of the illness as outlined in the service's Infectious Disease Exclusion Guide or if deemed medically ok by a doctor with written permission to return.

5. Procedures for Infectious Disease Outbreaks

If an outbreak occurs:

1. The Service Manager will consult HSE Public Health guidance.
2. Parents/guardians will be informed where appropriate.
3. Additional cleaning and hygiene measures will be implemented.
4. The service will monitor children for symptoms.
5. Where required, the service will contact the HSE Public Health Department for advice.
6. Any notifiable infectious disease will be reported in accordance with the Infectious Diseases Regulations.
7. Tusla Early Years Inspectorate will be informed where an outbreak affects the safe operation of the service.

6. Reporting Notifiable Infectious Diseases

- The Service Manager will seek advice from the HSE Public Health Department.
- The service will comply with the requirements of the Infectious Diseases Regulations and any guidance issued by the HSE.

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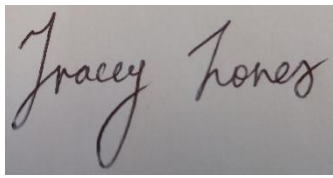
- Tusla Early Years Inspectorate will be notified where the outbreak affects the safe operation of the service or the health and welfare of children attending.
- Parents/guardians will be informed where appropriate while maintaining confidentiality.
- Records of all notifications and communications will be maintained.

Review Period: Every two years or sooner if public health guidance changes

Date Adopted: 7th September 2026

Review Date: 1st September 2028

Signed:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Jones".

Tracey Jones - *Manager / Service Provider*
Acting Principal of Newtownwhite ETNS



Appendix A

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Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service

How to hand wash

Wash hands when visibly soiled. Otherwise, use handrub with hand sanitiser.



Length of time to spend washing: 40-60 seconds



Wet hands with water



Apply enough soap to cover
all hand surfaces



Rub hands palm to palm



Right palm over the back of
the left hand with interlaced
fingers and do same on
other hand



Palm to palm with fingers
interlaced



Backs of fingers to opposite
palm with fingers interlocked



Rotational rubbing of left
thumb clasped in right palm
and do same on other hand



Rub in a circle with clasped
fingers of right hand in left
palm do same on other hand



Rinse hands with water



Dry hands thoroughly with
a clean towel or single use
towel



For non-clinical hand wash
basins turn off the tap with
a tissue



Your hands are now safe



www.hse.ie/infectioncontrol

Appendix B

Infection Control and Prevention – Handwash Frequency		
Children will be supervised by staff, while washing their hands in an age appropriate manner and assist where required to ensure the effective hand hygiene practices are followed, at the following times:		
Time	Class	Activity
1:30pm	Staff, Junior and Senior Infants	Moving from the classroom setting to the afterschool facility.
2:30pm	Staff and all other classes	
~1:45pm	Junior & Senior Infants	Prior to eating, if eating food is not the first task undertaken after washing hands when moving from classroom to afterschool facility.
~2:45pm	All other classes	
No set time	All children and staff	Post toilet use
No set time	All children and staff	Following outdoor play
No set time	Applicable children and staff	If hands are visibly dirty
No set time	All children and staff	Prior to departing the afterschool service