



VIRAL ILLNESSES AND PANDEMICS (INCLUDING COVID-19)

Some infections such as some strains of Influenza, SARs or the Coronavirus (Covid-19) are highly infectious viral illnesses that have the capacity to spread rapidly. When a new viral strain emerges, one of the following situations may occur:

- A serious epidemic - where a disease infects a significantly greater number of people in the area than is usual, or
- A pandemic – which is an epidemic of global proportions

Such an illness will spread rapidly because people will not have any natural resistance to it. It is difficult to predict the scale, severity and impact of a serious epidemic or pandemic, but research suggests that in the case of a pandemic, it could affect the entire country and that up to half the population could develop the illness. There could also be more than one wave of the illness.

During a serious viral epidemic or pandemic, Uplands Junior School's overall aim will be to encourage our staff, pupils and other stakeholders to carry on as normal if they are well, while taking additional precautions to protect them from exposure to infection and to lessen the risk of spread to others.

In terms of business continuity, this means that we will seek to sustain our core business and services as far as is practicable and therefore we will continue to operate largely within our existing policies and procedures. However, the School recognises that during such times, some additional provisions will be required to support our staff, pupils and other stakeholders.

Advice received from government agencies will be followed during epidemics and pandemics. Separate documentation relating to an epidemic or pandemic will be made available to staff, pupils and other stakeholders.

The school has a detailed Covid-19 Risk Assessment in place and regularly updates this in line with Government and Local Authority Guidance. The risk assessment details the hazards within school and the control measures we have put into place such as, creating one-way systems, staggered times for break and lunch, additional cleaning, the provision of hand sanitising stations and the provision of Personal Protection Equipment.

A copy of the school Risk Assessment is located on the school website.