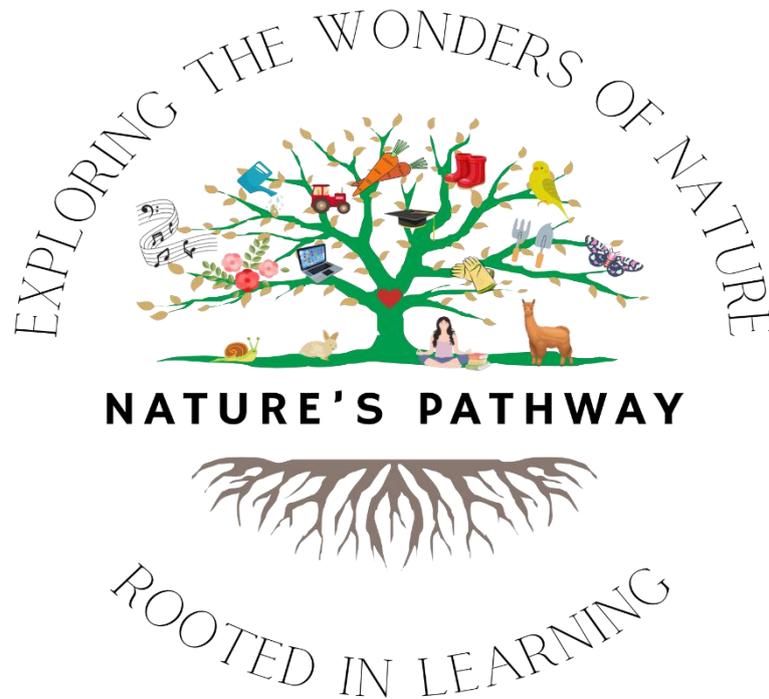


# Natures Pathway



## Illness & Infectious Disease Policy

Commencement Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Review Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2027

Signed: Mrs N Butler

## **1 Illness & Infectious Disease Policy Overview**

It is the policy of Natures Pathway, including all its brands and services to address any illness or signs of infectious disease with service users in our care or utilising our services.

### **2 Symptoms, Signs and Actions**

Students should not be in our care, if they are unwell. If a student is unwell then we recommend they stay at home or residence with their parent-carers, rather than at our setting where this will impact them and those around them.

If a student becomes ill during their designated days with us, their emergency contact, filed at the time of registration, will be contacted and asked to pick them up as soon as possible. During this time they will be cared for in a quiet, calm area or if requiring rest, will be located to the medical room with a support member of staff.

Should they have an infectious disease, such as an eye or ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to site until they have been clear for at least 48 hours to enable them to recover at home or within residence with their main carers and ensure we avoid further infection spread.

We follow strictly the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis and chicken pox to protect all stakeholders. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious, and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other stakeholders to the risk of an infection. We follow the guidance of Public Health England for specific infectious diseases exclusion therefore please do contact the main office if your CYP has been to the doctors and has a confirmed disease or infection and we can advise according to each case.

If a contagious infection is identified on our site, depending on the level and type we will inform the parents or carers of other service users on that particular day to be aware and informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness.

All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagion will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.

For the welfare of the **students**, we would not disclose the name of those who are suffering from the illness. We would give parents or carers as much information on spotting the signs and symptoms. In any case the infected service user would have been excluded for an advised period.

Our standard policy is to exclude **Students** on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course dependent on the nature of the illness. If you need guidance, please do call the main office with further information and we will review each case accordingly.

Natures Pathway management has the right to refuse admission to students who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable.

Information and posters about head lice are readily available and all parents - carers are requested to regularly check their CYPs hair. If a parent or carer finds head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the main office so that other parents-carers accordingly.

### **3 Meningitis Procedure**

If a caregiver informs the main office that their CYP has meningitis, the main office would contact the Health Protection Team linked to our area. They will give guidance and support in each individual case.

### **4 Escalation of Illness**

If the illness or sickness is severe, staff will call for an ambulance immediately. We would NOT attempt to transport the sick service user in our own vehicle. Whilst waiting for the ambulance, we would contact the listed emergency contact and arrange to meet them at the hospital.

A senior member of staff would accompany the student and collect together information from registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication or anything else relevant in that service user's file. The main office will be contacted to act as a central communication point and be monitoring the situation throughout. A member of the senior management team will also be informed immediately. Staff will remain calm at all times.

Other students who may have witnessed the incident will be comforted or informed as necessary or risk assessed and depending on the nature of the incident, a site shutdown may be ordered by the senior management team.

### **5 Incident Form**

All accidents and incidents will be recorded on the **Incident Form** and relevant parties will be required to sign them off.

## **6. Review**

All Natures Pathway policies and procedures follow ITIL guidelines to ensure version control, change control and release management of any documents. As a matter of policy, documents can be updated at any time to reflect changes to Natures Pathway procedures, legal changes, or any other reason to ensure the policies and procedures are accurate and correct. This involves consultation with stakeholders, management and approval from the directors. All policies and procedures are reviewed at the very least on an annual basis. Regular communication through newsletters, social media, text systems and through our website within the natures pathway policy's.

## **7. References**

Internal Natures Pathway References include:

### **Health & Safety Policy**

All these documents can be found in the Natures Pathway Policy's.

Government Guidelines can be found at:

**<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>**

This policy was last reviewed on: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Signed: N Butler

Renew Date 31<sup>st</sup> January 2027 or as needed