



Newfield School position statement - Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a bacterium often found in soil and ground water. It is an opportunistic pathogen and it rarely affects healthy individuals. However, it can cause a wide range of very serious infections, particularly in those with a weakened immune system, who have frequent respiratory infections and people with cystic fibrosis/bronchiectasis

Pseudomonas infections are sometimes associated with contact with contaminated water. It is resistant to many commonly-used antibiotics.

The UK Cystic Fibrosis Trust and NHS guidance tell us that casual meetings between people with CF, including brief encounters indoors and outdoors, carry a risk of infection and this risk is increased the longer and closer the contact.

They recommend that:

- Spa and other forms of aerated baths should be avoided.
- Schooling: although there is no evidence that *Pseudomonas* infection can be transmitted between children in the school environment, it is preferable for children with CF attending the same school to be in different classes.
- The importance of good hand hygiene should be reinforced.
- People should cover their mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing.

General contact between carriers in the school setting

School has approached paediatrics, community and acute and they are considering *Pseudomonas* in the school setting within children's care plans alongside discussions with families, in order to support reduced risk.

To ensure that all of our pupils are as safe as possible in school, we have taken advice from health colleagues, and with them have agreed the following.

In as much as practicable, for children with CF/bronchiectasis and those infected with *Pseudomonas* we will avoid:

- having them in the same class
- them spending time together, eg outside play

Should there become a point at which a large number of children have *pseudomonas* then the governing body would need to review admissions to school for any new carriers in liaison with healthcare professionals.

General hygiene

All of our staff receive hand hygiene training on induction to the school. This is regularly reviewed and there are reminders of this are throughout school. When a child uses a bathroom/changing bed, these are cleaned down with disinfectant each time after use. Alcohol hand gel is used by staff to further reduce cross contamination.



Hydro pool use

The use of the hydro pool will be discussed with parents, and if it is felt that the risks outweigh the benefits for their child, the child will be assigned an afternoon slot in order for the pool to go through its full cycle of overnight cleaning and water testing before any other children use the pool again, reducing any cross contamination risks.

The hydro pool is monitored several times daily for a whole host of safety measures by trained staff.

Any further clarification required by school will be sought alongside parents via school nursing team and the child's paediatrician.

Potential treatment of Pseudomonas

In addition to targeted antibiotics, a drug used in the treatment of Pseudomonas, namely Colomycin, may be prescribed.

We are advised by LCFT that this has a number of risks, but specifically that Colomycin nebulisers may carry a **potential** risk to pregnant women and their unborn foetus.

Advice from LCFT via the school nursing team is that the risk involved in administering this drug is unacceptable in a school environment.

However, advice from paediatrician health colleagues is that the risk involved in administering this drug must be carefully risk assessed on an individual basis within a school environment.

Therefore, following the advice detailed above, as a school, we will consider administration of this medication on an individual basis, and where clinical advice is received from a paediatrician that it is vital that this medication is delivered in school, we will risk assess accordingly in order to mitigate any potential risk to our staff and pupils of residual aerosol Colomycin in the atmosphere.

Thanks to

*Dr T Robertson, **Paediatrician - cystic fibrosis and respiratory disease**, East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.*

*Dr G Perera, **Community Paediatrician - cystic fibrosis and respiratory disease**, East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.*

*Pam Hicken, **Clinical Specialist Paediatric Physiotherapist**, Children's Community Assisted Ventilation Service, East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.*

*Dr D Corbett, **Paediatrician - cystic fibrosis and respiratory disease**, East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.*

*Laura Gee, **Community Matron for Complex Needs**, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust*

*Julie Brannon, **Team Leader, Special Needs School Nursing**, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust*

Appendix

Document from Dr Corbett - Recommendations and suggestions for reducing the risk of acquiring *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* and some other potentially harmful organisms. ELHT

References:



1. CF Trust (2004). Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection in people with Cystic Fibrosis: Suggestions for Prevention and Infection Control. Report of the UK Cystic
 2. The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2015-18) Infection Prevention and Control in Cystic Fibrosis Patients (Adult and Paediatric)
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