Infection Control Policy

**1. Purpose**

This policy outlines how Jump Start Therapy CIC manages infection control across all its activities, including sessions held in community venues (e.g., village halls), special schools, and at community events. The aim is to minimise the risk of infection transmission among staff, children, families, and the wider community.

**2. Scope**

This policy applies to:

* All Jump Start Therapy CIC staff, volunteers, and directors
* Children and young people attending sessions
* Parents/carers
* Partner organisations and venues
* Community event attendees where Jump Start Therapy CIC is present

**3. Key Principles**

* Promoting good hygiene practices at all sessions
* Following national and local public health guidance
* Communicating clearly with families and staff about illness-related absences
* Taking extra precautions when working with vulnerable individuals

**4. Responsibilities**

* **Directors and staff** are responsible for implementing infection control procedures and ensuring environments are clean and safe.
* **Families and participants** are expected to follow guidance regarding illness and hygiene when attending sessions.
* **Partner venues (schools, halls)** are responsible for maintaining a hygienic base environment; Jump Start Therapy CIC will supplement cleaning of equipment and materials it brings.

**5. Infection Control Measures**

**a. Hand Hygiene**

* Staff and participants are encouraged to wash or sanitise hands on arrival, before/after activities, and after coughing/sneezing.
* Hand sanitiser will be available at all sessions and events.

**b. Cleaning**

* Equipment and mats used in sessions are cleaned between uses.
* Frequently touched items (e.g., balls, hand-held tools) are cleaned regularly, especially between groups or locations.

**c. Respiratory Hygiene**

* “Catch it, bin it, kill it” is encouraged. Tissues and pedal bins are available in sessions.
* Staff are trained to model and encourage good respiratory etiquette.

**d. Illness and Exclusion**

* Children, staff, or visitors with symptoms of contagious illness (e.g. fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, COVID-19 symptoms, flu, or rashes of unclear cause) must not attend sessions.
* A 48-hour exclusion period is required after sickness or diarrhoea.
* For confirmed COVID-19 or other contagious conditions, Jump Start Therapy CIC follows current NHS/Public Health England guidance regarding exclusion and return.

**6. Venue Considerations**

**a. Village Hall Sessions**

* Hygiene supplies (hand sanitiser, disinfectant wipes, tissues) are brought to each session.
* Equipment brought into the hall is cleaned before and after each use.
* Windows and doors are opened when possible to promote ventilation.

**b. Special School Sessions**

* Infection control procedures are aligned with the host school’s policies.
* Staff liaise with school personnel about specific requirements (e.g., PPE, infection outbreaks, etc.).
* Sessions are postponed or adapted if infection outbreaks are identified within the school.

**c. Community Events**

* Infection control supplies are taken to all events.
* Equipment used at events is cleaned before and after each use.
* Participants showing symptoms of illness will be encouraged not to take part.

**7. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

* PPE is not routinely required but may be used if:
  + Providing close contact support with personal care
  + Advised by the venue (e.g. during an outbreak)
  + Working with immunocompromised individuals

Jump Start Therapy CIC will provide necessary PPE and guidance for its staff when required.

**8. Training**

All staff and volunteers will receive induction training on infection control procedures, including hand hygiene, cleaning, and illness management. Refresher guidance will be given annually or following updates in national guidance.

**9. Monitoring and Review**

* This policy will be reviewed annually or following significant changes in government guidance.
* Feedback from staff and families is welcomed to support safe practice.

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Review Due: 29/07/26

Policy Author: Amie Hood, Director – Jump Start Therapy CIC

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