

## Woodpecker Court

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**Woodpecker Court**

*"Where learning meets the outdoors"*

# Woodpecker Court Infection Control Policy V3

**Relationships, Respect, Resilience**

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**Routine**

# Version control

<b>Version</b>	<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Future Review date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Approved by board</b>
V1	IC	Sept 2022	Policy written and implemented	30/09/2021
V2	RM	Sept 2023	Policy reviewed and updated affirming Avian Flu guidance	08/09/2022
V3	GM	Sept 24	Policy reviewed and updated. PPE, foot dip and muck trailer information updated	15/09/2023

All animals naturally carry a range of microorganisms, some of which can be transmitted to humans. Diseases passed from animals to humans are known as zoonoses. Some zoonotic diseases are more serious than others.

There are a range of zoonotic diseases that could be acquired from animal contact including E. coli O157 and Cryptosporidium parvum.

Simply carrying the bacterium will not normally cause an animal any harm or illness but contact with contaminated animals or their faeces can cause illness ranging from diarrhoea to kidney failure in humans. In some cases, the illness can be fatal. Young children, pregnant women, individuals with compromised immune systems and the elderly are at the greatest risk. Very low numbers of microorganisms can cause human infection.

People can become infected by microorganisms such E. coli O157 or Cryptosporidium parvum through consuming contaminated food or drink, through direct contact with contaminated animals, or by contact with an environment contaminated with animal faeces.

Therefore, it is important that activities involving the animals and across the premises consider the risks. The implementation of effective control measures will help to ensure that the risk of infection from contact with animals is low. Control measures taken will include:

- Informing any visitors or those in direct contact with the animals are aware of the risks and where they can locate handwashing facilities. Signage is provided to explain risks.
- Hand washing facilities should be accessible and sufficient. Including running water, soap, and paper towels.
- Hand sanitisers and wipes are not a substitute to hand washing following contact with animals.
- Food or drink will not be allowed on the farm, this is to include the use of chewing gum.

## **Handwashing**

Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting and respiratory disease. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels are recommended.

Hand washing stations are located across the farm for use following contact with animals.

A hand washing station is located in the entrance and exit to the farm. This is to include running water, soap, and paper towels. Paper towels are to be immediately disposed of in the bin provided.

A hand washing station is located outside Classroom 3. This is to include running water, soap, and paper towels. Paper towels are to be immediately disposed of in the bin provided.

All staff and pupils are advised to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food and after touching animals.

Cover all cuts and abrasions with a waterproof dressing.

Coughs and sneezes spread diseases. Children and adults are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue and wash hands after using or disposing of tissues. Spitting should be discouraged.

Wear disposable gloves and plastic aprons if there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood or body fluids during an activity. Gloves should be disposable, non-powdered vinyl or latex-free and CE marked. Wear goggles if there is a risk of splashing to the face.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Students, staff and volunteers **should** wear overalls throughout the year when working closely with the animals in higher stress situations or with faeces.

In some situations, overalls are required to be worn to ensure current regulations and guidance is met, such as Avian Flu.

**Wellies or an alternative change of footwear must be worn when in any animal pen.**

## **Foot dip/Foot hygiene**

Foot dips **and mats** are provided across the premises on the entrance and exit of animal pens. These are to be used when entering and exiting a pen to reduce cross contamination.

Yellow foot dip buckets can be found in the entrance to the farm and in the entrance into the rabbit and guinea pig runs.

A specific pig foot dip is stored outside of the pig runs.

A specific chicken foot dip is located inside the entrance to the main chicken run.

Foot dips are changed on a weekly basis unless excessive build up of organic matter and are made to the correct concentration as directed by the manufacturer dependent on the species, further supported by COSHH.

Shared wellington boots are offered to students, staff and visitors as required. Socks must be worn in the wellington boots to prevent the possible transmission of bacterial, fungal, and viral foot diseases.

Wellington boots are regularly disinfected internally.

Following use, all wellington boots are washed using the wellie wash to ensure that all organic matter is removed from the boots. This is located outside the main chicken run.

## **Drains and water sources**

All drains are regularly cleaned to reduce the quantity of build-up of organic matter. All large particles are collected into an animal waste bin, located by the wash up area. When emptied, the contents of the bin are emptied into the compost heap.

Filters are regularly sanitised, and areas disinfected. Drains are rodded as necessary.

Animal water runs off an agricultural supply. All water sources are tested for E Coli quarterly. Results are recorded in the farm checks folders. pH testing of all water sources takes place at the start of every month. Results are recorded in the farm checks folder.

## **Hand sanitisers**

Hand sanitisers are located along the boundaries of the farm for easy access to the public following contact with animals.

Signage is included to inform the public that hand sanitisers are not a substitute to hand washing.

## **Information and signage**

Woodpecker Court provides up to date signage around the farm, including the Woodpecker Court Community notice board, informing readers of risks of contact with animals.

Signs are erected in appropriate places reminding visitors to wash their hands when leaving animal contact areas, before eating, and when leaving the farm.

Washing facilities have signs giving full instructions on proper hand washing. Signage is also provided on hand sanitising stations to inform readers that sanitiser is not a substitute to hand washing.

## **Muck trailer**

The muck trailer is located in the first section of the petting paddock.

The muck trailer is fenced off within the petting paddock to reduce foot fall in close proximity to the trailer. The trailer is positioned at an angle to allow for run off in one direction.

The trailer is emptied as necessary by a **contractor**. The tractor will only ever go within the holding paddock. Wheels are disinfected when entering the farm.

The farm has a designated wheelbarrows that always stay on the farm.

## **Petting paddock**

When a farm open event occurs, animals are brought to the petting paddock. Any shelters, housing or bedding are removed as per open farm regulations.

If access to other paddocks is granted during the visit, no access will be allowed into the shelters.

Access to paddocks will be in line with any individual animal's risk assessments.

## **Animal contact**

Any animal that is feeling unwell due to unnecessary stress may exhibit changes in behaviour such as baring teeth or biting.

If bitten, immediately flush with water. Clean the area with soap and water, following any first aid policies and procedures.

Do not kiss any animals.

If licked by an animal, wash the area with soap and water to remove any saliva.

## **Compost heaps**

Compost heaps are located on the bank next to site 1 car park. The compost heaps are used for collection of chicken scrapings, vegetable garden waste and drain residue.

Compost heap use is rotated between all of the heaps. The contents will be left for three months before use on any vegetable patches.

Compost bins may be located on the farm for animal faeces that is not contaminated by straw with the intention of being used as fertiliser on resting paddocks.

Compost heaps are designed so to ensure that run off enters a low foot fall area where no visitors have unsupervised contact.

Woodpecker Court recommends that vegetables used on site or sold on the honesty stall are washed thoroughly before use.

## **Visitors**

Visitors to the farm are not to enter the animal shelters.

Visitors to the farm are to follow all guidance from staff including the washing of hands and use of foot dips.

Visitors are only to enter pens while accompanied by a trained member of staff.

While visitors are on site, they will adhere to all other Woodpecker Court policies and procedures.

## **Avian flu**

Please refer to the Avian flu RA and procedure.

## **Isolation requirements of animals**

On arrival, all animals are isolated away from existing animals. This isolation period will depend on the species.

During this time, observations of the animals will take place to assess behaviours or any health concerns.

On arrival, animals will be vaccinated with Heptavac (or Lambivac as appropriate) and wormed. A full health check will be completed including teeth, feet, eyes, skin, coat checks etc.

Woodpecker Court stays up to date via NFU and DEFRA updates with current regulation for all animal types on site.

## **Lockdown for pigs and cloven hoof**

Woodpecker Court follows legal regulations on lockdown following the arrival of pigs and cloven hoof animals.

Cloven hoof lockdown – 7 days (including the day of arrival) Pig lockdown – 21 days (including the day of arrival)

## **Pest control**

Woodpecker Court have an ongoing contract with Rentokil. This meets the DEFRA standards as well as trading standards feed storage requirements.