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Infection Control

The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect everyone in the healthcare settings we visit (our participants, staff, families and our musicians) from exposure to infection.
- To provide participants, parents/carers, musicians, staff, volunteers and the directors with the overarching principles that guide our approach to reducing risk of spreading infection

This policy applies to **anyone** working on behalf of Wishing Well Music in Healthcare, including managers, directors, musicians, paid staff, and volunteers when visiting healthcare settings.

Wishing Well Musicians visit a range of settings including:

Children's Hospitals

Neonatal Units

Community, General and Acute Hospitals where they may visit care of the elderly or intensive care wards.

Mental Health inpatient units (for people living with dementia and young people)

We recognise that:

- We have a responsibility to use up to date, evidence based best practice to minimise the risk of spreading infection when we work in healthcare settings
- The people that we work with are vulnerable to infection due to existing health conditions and/or age.

We will minimise the risk of spreading infection by ensuring that when visiting healthcare settings, all members of the Wishing Well team:

- Follow the advice and guidance of the setting they are visiting by checking in with a member of staff at the start of every visit.
- Follow 'bare below the elbows' policy in healthcare settings - clothing to finish at elbows, no wristwatch or bracelets, no rings with stones. No false nails.
- Follow the hand washing and hand sanitiser gel procedures of the setting they are in, or if no specific procedures, follow government guidance on handwashing and hand sanitiser gel. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>



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- Use only instruments that are wipeable and therefore suitable for hospital use. All instruments are wiped on arrival at the hospital, following every individual or group interaction and again at the very end of the visit using Clinell Universal wipes.
- Instruments are carried in wipeable bags which are cleaned at the beginning and end of every visit using Clinell Universal wipes
- Follow the advice of healthcare staff when working with patients who are isolated due to infection risk. This may mean for example, wearing gloves and gowns or avoiding any direct contact with the patient.

Members of the Wishing Well Team will not visit healthcare settings if:

- They have experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the 48 hours prior to a visit. All members of the team will wait until 48 hours symptom free have passed before entering a healthcare setting to deliver music sessions.
- They have a running cold, sore throat, cough or fever or any signs of infection. Musicians must contact CEO Jo White to discuss any potentially infectious illness so that sessions can be postponed if needed and healthcare settings can be contacted as necessary. Wishing Well will always follow the advice of our healthcare partners in deciding whether or not a visit needs to be postponed.
- They or any member of their household has been asked to self isolate by a Health Professional
- If any member of the Wishing Well team is concerned that they may pose an infection risk, they should phone NHS111 for advice, and immediately contact Jo White (CEO)

*adopted September 2019
reviewed and approved May 23rd 2023*