



SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL Infectious Diseases Policy

Rationale:

- Schools are expected to be safe and healthy places for staff and students to enjoy.
- Students/staff with infectious diseases need to be managed in a manner that protects their privacy, maintains their health and dignity, and ensures the health and safety of all others.
- Increasing prevalence of Hepatitis in society requires the school to implement practices and procedures that prevent infection. The various forms of Hepatitis are infectious viral diseases of the liver. They can be transmitted a number of different ways including needle stick injuries, a cut with a contaminated object, or contamination of an employee's cuts, abrasions, eyes or mouth with another person's blood or body fluids.

Aims:

- To provide a safe and healthy workplace for all school community members (students, staff, parents and visitors).
- To ensure that the school community are aware of their requirements and obligations related to all infectious diseases.

Implementation:

- Prevention and control of infectious diseases is provided by the school through the support of DHHS immunisation programs and through recording the immunisation status of each student.
- Good general hygiene remains the best defence against infection and schools should encourage children to regularly wash their hands and cover their nose and mouth if sneezing and coughing.
- There are a number of identified infectious diseases that require specific considerations including the exclusion of students / staff from school.
- The health status of all staff and students is strictly confidential.
- All staff will be provided with professional development regarding Hepatitis, ways of preventing infection, issues of confidentiality and the availability of resources.
- The 'Schedule 7 Minimum Period of Exclusion from Primary Schools and Children's Services Centers for Infectious Diseases Cases and Contacts (Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009)' [School exclusion table](#) outlines the minimum period of exclusion from schools for infectious diseases cases and any person who has been in contact with the infected person.
- The School Exclusion Table can be accessed on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website via the following link:
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>
- The regulations require the parent/guardian or staff member to inform the Principal as soon as practicable if a child or staff member is infected with any of the diseases listed in the table or has been in contact with an infected person.
- Patients or contacts shall be prevented from attending school unless they comply with the conditions prescribed in the table.

- It should be noted that during outbreaks of diseases prescribed in the table, and when directed to do so by the Secretary, Principals are to direct parents/guardians of students who are not immunised against a Vaccine Preventable Disease to keep their children at home until the Secretary advises that they may resume school.
- All staff will be provided with training relating to infectious and blood-borne diseases, the minimisation of risk, and the management of blood and body fluid spills as outlined in the school's **Blood Spill Policy**.
- All students will be provided with age appropriate information relating to infectious diseases.
- Hepatitis information and safe hygiene practices will form part of the school Health curriculum in line with current information about outbreaks as advised by DEET.
- School Council will provide information to the wider community relating to Hepatitis, including the requirement under the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 that parents/guardians are to inform the Principal as soon as practicable if their child is infected with Hepatitis A, B or C and in the case of Hepatitis A they must provide a medical certificate to the principal whenever the child is in the acute phase of infection and keep the child away from school until the treating practitioner provides a second certificate indicating the acute phase has passed.
- At all other times, students with any forms of Hepatitis will be full participants in all aspects of the school program.
- Staff will be provided with training relating to safe infection control and the following infection control procedures must be adhered to at all times:
 - Wash hands after direct contact with any injured person.
 - Wear protective gloves when contacting body fluids, non-intact skin and mucous membranes.
 - Wear a mask, eye protection and a gown if blood or other body fluids might splash.
 - Cover all cuts and abrasions.
 - Clean up spills of blood and other body fluids.
 - Decontaminate reusable items (scissors, tweezers etc) with alcohol swabs and washes if appropriate, or dispose of all together.
 - Dispose of contaminated waste through appropriate biohazard containers.
 - Dispose of sharps through sharps containers provided consistent with the **Sharps Policy**.
- Staff and students (where required and appropriate) will be provided with training relating to the correct disposal of needles and syringes.
- Appropriate first aid supplies will be provided.
- Any staff member who becomes aware of a departure from safe first aid practices is to report the matter immediately to the Principal.
- Staff who fear that they have become infected with an infectious disease will:
 - Have the incident recorded on eduSafe,
 - Be offered medical treatment immediately, and
 - Will be provided with information regarding the Department's Employee Assistance Program on 1800 337 068.
- Our first aid staff will be offered vaccinations against Hepatitis.
- Hepatitis vaccinations as well as First Aid room workplace inspections will form part of our OHS Activities Calendar and will be entered on the OHS Risk Register. The school will maintain records of vaccinations on individual staff files.
- Education about Hepatitis and sexually transmitted diseases is available to students as part of the school's health education program.
- Practices between students that may transmit infectious disease (such as kissing or sharing food/drink) are not to occur at school.

- The Privacy Act (1988) and the Health Records Act 2001 protect the private health information of all people and breaches of confidentiality by staff are serious offences that will not be tolerated.
- Students regardless of their Hepatitis or other infectious diseases status, whose behaviour constitutes a danger to others, will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Engagement and Inclusion Policy.

Reference:

For further information please refer to the Victorian Department of Education and Training's Infectious Diseases Policy via the following link:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/infectiousdiseases.aspx>

Also refer to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/exclusion-periods-role-of-schools-and-child-care-services>

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.
- Changes of policy by DEET or DHHS will be included in review of this policy as required.

Approved by School Council June 2018