



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.
- 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. Increasing prevalence of Hepatitis in society requires the school to implement practices and procedures that prevent infection.

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:

- 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 regulations require the parent/guardian or staff member to inform the Principal as soon as practicable if the 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 DET.

- 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.
 - Decontaminated reusable items (scissors, tweezers etc) with alcohol swabs and washes if appropriate, or dispose of all together.
 - Dispose of contaminated wastes through appropriate biohazard containers.
 - Dispose of sharps through sharps containers provided consistent with '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.
- Persons who fear that they have become infected will have the incident recorded on eduSafe, are to 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 in the event of contact. 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 other sexually transmitted diseases is available to students as part of the school's health education program.
- Practices between students such as kissing or fighting 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 status, whose behaviour constitutes a danger to others, will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Engagement and Inclusion Policy.
- Students with open wounds must have the wound treated and covered, or the student must be taken home until the wound has healed

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.
 - Changed of policy by DET or Health Authorities will be included in review of policy as required.
- Approved by School Council March 2015**
- <http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/bluebook.asp>

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