



# WILLIAMSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Immunisation & Exclusion (Infectious Diseases) Policy

### 1. BACKGROUND

While responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious diseases rests primarily with individuals, families and public health authorities, schools also have an important role to play. Schools are required to request and record the immunisation status of each child (i.e. primary students prior to enrolment and must follow exclusion requirements) as required.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 require children with certain infectious diseases, and children who have been in contact with certain infectious diseases, to be excluded from school for a specified period.

Schools are legally authorised to share parent and student contact details with the local council for the purpose of immunisation.

Schools can support the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by:

- supporting immunisation programs.
- providing prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease.

Schools are not expected to give expert advice or treat students beyond first aid, which is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities as appropriate.

*Note:* Head lice and scabies are infestations not infections. Please refer to the *Head Lice Policy*.

### 2. PURPOSE

- To help prevent and control the transmission of infectious diseases in the School.
- To ensure the School is informed about the immunisation responsibilities and exclusion processes during an infectious disease outbreak.
- To ensure the School complies with Department of Education and Training (DET) policy and legislative requirements.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

**Vaccination** means having a vaccine, that is, receiving an injection.

**Immunisation** means both receiving a vaccine and becoming immune to a disease as a result of being vaccinated.

**Exclusion** is the period of time for which a student is required to not attend school.

**Hand hygiene** is a general term referring to any action of hand cleansing. It includes hand washing with soap and water and using antimicrobial hand rubs (for example, an alcohol-based hand rub).

**Infectious diseases** are diseases caused by pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi. These diseases can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another.

**Respiratory hygiene** or **cough etiquette** are terms used to describe infection prevention measures. Practices include covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, using tissues and disposing of them appropriately, and attending to hand hygiene immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing nose.

**Standard precautions** are the minimum infection prevention and control practices that must be used at all times for all people in all situations. The use of standard precautions aims to minimise and, where possible, eliminate the risk of transmission of infection.

**School** means Williamstown Primary School.

### 4. PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- The School has developed the mandatory Health Care Needs Policy.
- Please refer to the School's *Enrolment Policy* and the *Admission Policy* for full details of the enrolment and admission processes and immunisation requirements.
- The School will support the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by providing a prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease in accordance with the legislative requirements.
- Unwell children will be sent home as soon as possible.
- The School will notify the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) immediately if a child is suspected of having pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal disease or polio, even if we believe a doctor has already done so.
- Notification is through Communicable Disease Prevention and Control (Ph. 1300 651 160 - 24 hours).

- Whilst maintaining student confidentiality, the School community will be advised.
- In the event of an infectious disease outbreak, Williamstown Primary School will:
  - be aware of and abide by exclusion requirements (as per the school exclusion table)
  - not allow a child to attend School if:
    - they have been informed that the child is infected with an infectious disease, that requires exclusion, as described in Column 2 of Schedule 7 (the school exclusion table).
    - they have been informed that a child is a contact of a person who is infected with an infectious disease as described in Column 3 of Schedule 7 (the school exclusion table).
    - they have not been immunised against a vaccine preventable disease and are directed to do so by the Secretary and until the Secretary directs that such attendance can be resumed
- The Principal will ensure a first aid kit is appropriately stocked and contains advice on handling spills of body fluids and substances.
- The School will take specific precautions to assist with infection prevention and control which must be followed by all people in a school at all times. They include hygiene and body fluids and substance precautions that:
  - protect children and staff
  - educate children and staff about why the behaviour is inappropriate and the consequences of the behaviour.
- Hygiene –  
General precautions include:
  - good hygiene practices, particularly washing and drying hands before and after meals, after using the bathroom, after nose blowing, and after contact with contaminated objects.
  - the use of protective barriers which can include gloves and masks.
  - safe handling of 'sharps'.
  - use of non-touch technique, as appropriate.

Hand hygiene is considered one of the most important infection control measures for reducing the spread of infection. Soap will be provided and/or other hand hygiene consumables to support good hand hygiene. The teaching of hand hygiene routines will be incorporated into the curriculum and daily activities.
- Blood and other body fluids –  
Interaction between people at School should minimise contact with body fluids and substances, including:
  - blood, whether wet or dry.
  - secretions.
  - excretions other than sweat.
  - other body substances.

Staff members and students should:

  - cover broken skin on their hands or lower arms with waterproof occlusive dressings at all times.
  - treat blood and other body fluids and substances as being potentially infectious.
  - avoid direct contact with blood and other fluids and substances, where possible.
  - be familiar with recommended hygiene and standard precautions.
  - deal with spills by using single use gloves or until it is possible to get someone wearing gloves to take over, then thoroughly wash their hands and any body parts that were in contact with the spill using warm water and liquid soap.
  - use a resuscitation mask, if available, if mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is required.
- The School will not give medical advice or treat students beyond first aid, which is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities, as appropriate.
- For further information, the School will refer to the other resources available on the website below. Please refer also to the School's *Blood-Borne Viruses (Hepatitis & HIV) Policy*, *First Aid Policy* and the *Bleeding Students/Blood Spills Policy*.
- **References:**
  - [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/infectiousdiseases.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/infectiousdiseases.aspx)
  - [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/immunisation.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/immunisation.aspx)

## 5. REVIEW AND POLICY HISTORY

This policy is due for formal review in January 2021, although it may be changed at any time as required after discussion with School Council and the Principal, or if guidelines change.

### Policy History

<b>Version Approval Date</b>	<b>Summary of Changes</b>
May 2015	New policy
March 2016	Policy update
January 2017	Policy update
May 2018	Policy update