

IMMUNISATION POLICY

PHILOSOPHY

While responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious diseases is primarily with individuals, families and public health authorities; schools also have an important role to play.

PURPOSE

- To support the health and safety of students, staff, visitors, our school community and the broader local population.
- To outline responsibilities around student immunisation and exclusion processes during an infectious disease outbreak.

IMPLEMENTATION

Schools are required to:

- request that parents of primary school students provide them with an Immunisation History Statement for their child from the Australian Immunisation Register
- maintain records of all Immunisation History Statements
- record information regarding the immunisation status of each enrolled child on CASES21 (whether an Immunisation History Statement has been received or not)
- follow exclusion requirements, as required
- 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.

Note: Schools are not expected to give expert advice or treat students; this is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities, as appropriate.

Note: Prior to commencing primary school, children should have received their childhood vaccinations as per the National Immunisation Program Schedule.

School responsibilities – Exclusion Process

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.

During an outbreak of an infectious disease, Principals of primary students must:

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- be aware of and abide by exclusion requirements
- 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.

School Exclusion table: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>

For any assistance or further advice contact the Department of Health - Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Section on 1300 651 160.

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.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's Evaluation of Policies Timetable.

RELATED LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

- Attendance Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- Infectious Diseases Policy
- International Student Program Policy
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006
- Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007
- Family Law Act 1975
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009
- School Exclusion table: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>

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