

Park Ridge Primary School Communicable Diseases Policy May, 2017

Rationale

A communicable disease is an infectious disease that is contagious and which can be transmitted from one source to another by infectious bacteria or viral organisms.

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

At Park Ridge Primary School we 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.

Park Ridge Primary School is not expected to give expert advice or treat students, which is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities as appropriate.

Aim

- To help prevent and control the transmission of communicable diseases in our school and community.

Implementation

In the event of an infectious disease outbreak, Park Ridge Primary School must:

- Take specific precautions to prevent and control the transmission of infectious diseases
- Minimise contact with body fluids and substances and have procedures that:
 - Protect staff and students and deal with inappropriate student behaviour that could result in exposure to body fluids
 - Include educating the student about why the behaviour is inappropriate and the potential consequences.
- The Principal must ensure a first aid kit is appropriately stocked and contains advice on handling spills of body fluids and substances.

Precautions

Specific precautions to assist with infection prevention and control must be followed by all people in a school at all times. They include hygiene and bodily fluids and substance precautions.

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.

Blood and Other Bodily Fluids

Interaction between people at schools 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:
 - 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.

Note: CPR training should be practiced with the use of a single-use resuscitation mask and manikins should be cleaned, dried and disinfected.

Exclusion

Schools must be aware of, and abide by, exclusion requirements during an outbreak of an infectious disease. Appendix 1 Communicable Diseases Exclusion, outlines the minimum periods of exclusion from Primary Schools for infectious diseases cases and contacts. In some cases, a medical certificate provided by a registered medical practitioner must be received prior to re-admission to classes can be allowed.

Parents &/or carers have a responsibility to inform the Principal as soon as practicable if a student is infected with any infectious or communicable disease or has been in contact with an infected person.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-yearly policy review process.

Policy:	Communicable Diseases		
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