



INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

Scriptural Context

*“Help carry one another’s burdens and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.”
Galatians 6:2*

Rationale

St Patrick’s Primary School has a duty of care to provide and maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff, volunteers and visitors working at our school and to minimise the risk of anyone in the school community contracting an infectious disease.

The school will safeguard the privacy of any staff member, student or other person who disclose that they have an infectious disease. Staff and students with an infectious disease have a duty of care to minimise the risk of transmission to other members of the school community and they will acknowledge that they shall undertake reasonable measures to comply with this policy.

Definitions

- **Infectious Disease- Infectious diseases**, also known as **communicable diseases**, **contagious diseases** or **transmissible diseases** comprise clinically evident illness (i.e., characteristic medical signs and/or symptoms of disease) resulting from the infection, presence and growth of pathogenic biological agents in an individual host organism. Infectious diseases are those listed by the NSW Department of Health as requiring a period of exclusion from school. A current list of infectious diseases is contained in Appendix A. For more information visit www.health.nsw.gov.au
- **Exclusion-** For the purposes of this policy exclusion means that the particular person with an infectious disease will be refused entry/participation in any school activity or function, both at school or in an alternative location.
- **Outbreak-** Outbreak is a term used in epidemiology to describe an occurrence of disease greater than would otherwise be expected at a particular time and place. It may affect a small and localized group or impact upon thousands of people across an entire continent. Two linked cases of a rare infectious disease may be sufficient to constitute an outbreak. Outbreaks may also refer to epidemics, which affect a region in a country or a group of countries, or pandemics, which describe global disease outbreaks.

Aims

- To protect the health and wellbeing of St Patrick’s School community and the wider community.
- To give clear direction to all those within the school community in matters of infectious diseases and to communicate to all stakeholders in a concise and effective manner.

Guidelines

- Under Department of Health regulations 2006, all parents/caregivers are required to present a copy of their child’s immunisation certificate when enrolling their child at St Patrick’s School. The Immunisation History Statement which is issued by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) is required as proof of immunisation status for enrolment at St Patrick’s School under the NSW Public Health Act 1991. Parents/caregivers can refuse to provide a History Statement. However, their child will be classified as un-immunised and may be excluded from school if there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease in the school.
- In the event that an infectious disease has been confirmed in the school, all parents and guardians will be notified within the next 24 hours.
- Parents and staff members will contact the school immediately if they have contracted a medically confirmed infectious disease.

Guideline Indicators

- As part of the enrolment process, administration staff will ensure all documentation is collected from parents/caregivers and entered onto the school's computer data base (SAS 2000) and is placed in the student file.
- In circumstances where parents/caregivers do not provide immunisation details through deliberate choice, this will be noted on the school's data base.
- In the event of an infectious disease, parents and staff members will inform the Principal and Administration office.
- The school community will be informed of the confirmed case of an infectious disease within 24 hours, ensuring that the person who has contracted the disease is not named publicly.
- A student/staff member who has contracted an infectious disease will not be allowed to attend school.
- The Principal will contact the local public health unit for advice regarding infectious diseases. A letter and fact sheet will be sent home to all parents/guardians and a copy given to all staff.
- In the event of an outbreak, those families identified with an unimmunised child/ren may be excluded from attending school. A decision to exclude students will be made after the school receives advice from the local Public Health Unit.
- Students/staff members who have contracted an infectious disease will not be allowed to attend school until they have completed the prescribed course of medication and have clearance from their doctor.
- Those who are most vulnerable to an infectious disease (pregnant parents/caregivers, staff or students with low immunity) will be contacted by phone as soon as practically possible.

Reflective Materials

- St Patrick's School Enrolment Policy and Form, 2011
- NSW Department of Health, Policy and Procedures Manual, 2006
- The Australian Immunisation Handbook, 9th Edition, 2008

This policy was last ratified by St. Patrick's School Board in
& Reviewed in

2005
December, 2015

Notification of Infectious Diseases Under the Public Health Act 1991

To be notified by Principals (Section 42D, Public Health Act 1991)

- Diphtheria
- Measles
- Mumps
- Pertussis (Whooping cough)
- Poliomyelitis
- Rubella (German measles)
- Tetanus

Infectious Diseases notification should be directed to the local Public Health Unit, and should be initiated within twenty-four hours of diagnosis.

Contact Details: Public Health Unit

North Coast AHS
Port Macquarie Office
PO Box 126,
Port Macquarie 2444

Ph: 02 6588 2750

Fax: 02 6588 2837

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