

# ST. THERESE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Albion Street, Kennington 3550



## Infectious Disease (Student)

### The Hazard – Infectious Diseases

There are many infectious diseases that can affect children and young people, some common and others rare, including:

- Chicken pox (varicella);
- Gastroenteritis;
- German measles (rubella);
- Haemophilus influenzae infections;
- Hepatitis A;
- Measles (rubeola);
- Meningococcal;
- Poliomyelitis;
- Typhoid and paratyphoid fever; and
- Whooping cough (pertussis).

### St. Therese's School Policy

St. Therese's School is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all of our students.

It is our policy that:

- We implement clear guidelines for the management of infectious diseases;
- We provide education, support and resources for staff, parents/carers, students and the wider St Therese's School community on dealing with infectious diseases;
- Teaching staff are trained to recognise symptoms of common infectious diseases and how to deal appropriately with children who become ill at St Therese's School; and
- We inform the Department of Health of the occurrence of any notifiable conditions.

### Parent/Carer Responsibility

Parents/Carers are required to:

- Inform the St Therese's School of any excludable infectious disease their child is diagnosed with. The complete list of infectious diseases with the exclusion status of the disease can be found on the Department of Health website;
- Inform the St Therese's School if their child has been in contact with a person infected with diphtheria, measles (if the child is unimmunised) and whooping cough (if the child is under 7 years old);

- Give an immunisation status certificate in respect of each vaccine preventable disease to the St Therese's School;
- Follow medical advice with respect to exclusion from and return to St Therese's School of their child; and
- Comply with St Therese's School staff directions for time out of St Therese's School for the student's condition.

### **Immunisation Policy**

All staff at St. Therese's School should be fully immunised and know their immunisation status, to protect them against the outbreak of vaccine preventable diseases.

Immunisation status certificates must be provided upon enrolment and will be stored in student medical records which are kept up to date in accordance with our Medical Records (Student) Policy.

Students who have not received any immunisations must still provide a certificate. Certificates will assist in the event of a disease outbreak, where unimmunised children can be quickly identified and excluded from St Therese's School until the risk of infection has passed. Records of the information in each immunisation status certificate must be kept for the duration that the child attends the St Therese's School.

It is recommended that staff and students are immunised according to the Immunisation Schedule Victoria from February 2014.

Prospective students will not be excluded from attending St Therese's School if they have not been immunised.

### **Infection Control Policy**

Where the Principal believes on reasonable grounds that a student is suffering from a vaccine preventable disease, they must notify the Department of Health as well as the parents or guardians of the child, in order to receive instructions on the exclusion of the child.

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at St Therese's School, the student diagnosed with the infectious disease must not attend St Therese's School in order to prevent the spread of the condition among staff and other students. The student will be excluded from St Therese's School in accordance with the school exclusion table.

Specific management and communication arrangements will be worked out in consultation with the Department of Health. When directed by the Department of Health, the Principal will ensure students at the St Therese's School who are not immunised against vaccine preventable diseases, do not attend the St Therese's School until the Department advises that attendance can be resumed.

### **Incident Procedures**

In the event a student becomes unwell at St Therese's School with an infectious disease, immediate medical treatment should be provided following the procedures outlined in our First Aid Policy. The student should then be transferred to the care of a parent/carer.

### **Notifiable Conditions**

It is requirement that the St Therese's School's Principal or Deputy Principal notifies the Department of Health, and that the Principal or Deputy Principal informs the parent or carer of a child who is suspected of having a notifiable infectious disease.

The Department of Health has a list of all notifiable conditions, information as to when to notify the Department, as well as notification methods, on its Notifying Cases Page.

### **Contact Details for the Department of Health**

Notifying cases of infectious diseases will depend on the group category of the infectious disease on the Notifying Cases page.

#### Group A Conditions

1. Phone 1300 651 160; and
2. Send notification form via:
  - Fax 1300 651 170; or
  - Post to Reply Paid 65937, Melbourne VIC 8060; or
  - Online.

#### Group B, C and D Conditions

1. Send notification form via:
  - Fax 1300 651 170; or
  - Post to Reply Paid 65937, Melbourne VIC 8060; or
  - Online.

Further information can be found on the Department of Health website.

### **Workers' Responsibility**

All workers are responsible to ensure that they:

- Advise the Principal if they know or reasonably suspect that a student may have an infectious disease;
- Implement infection control practices to minimise the risk of exposure to infectious diseases for themselves and their students;
- Be aware of infectious diseases which they have been vaccinated against and keep their immunisation records up-to-date; and

- Maintain privacy and confidentiality of student information and documentation on suspected/confirmed infectious diseases.

## **Implementation**

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- Staff training and supervision;
- Maintenance of medical records;
- Effective incident notification procedures;
- Effective communication procedures with the student's parents/carers; and
- Initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

## **Discipline for Breach of Policy (Optional)**

Where a staff member breaches this policy St. Therese's School may take disciplinary action.

## **Related Policies**

First Aid Policy

Head Lice Policy

Medical Records (Student) Policy

## **Reference Material**

VIC Department of Health Infectious Diseases website

VIC Department of Health Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit's Publication –  
The Blue Book: Guidelines for the Control of Infectious Diseases