

St Columba's Catholic School

Procedure for infectious diseases, including HIV / AIDS and other Blood Borne Viruses

Rationale:

To minimise the spread of infectious disease and provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students and staff.

PURPOSE:

1. To provide clear guidelines for staff and caregivers as to procedures and expulsion times for infectious diseases.
2. To promote safe practices relating to infectious diseases.
3. To provide the necessary equipment to ensure these safe practices are possible.
4. To keep the school community informed and updated with any relevant information regarding infectious diseases at our school. This information sharing will in no way compromise the confidentiality and privacy of the member(s) of the community concerned. Confidentiality and privacy will always be a priority in these matters.
5. To utilise any health professional and resources that are available to ensure accurate information, counseling, and safe practices are provided.
6. To promote the benefits of immunisation to the school community, with the aim of achieving the highest level of immunization possible.

Guidelines:

1. A child's health status will not affect their right to an education.
2. All blood should be treated as if it is infectious.
3. Staff will be able to access information regarding relevant infectious diseases.
A document on "guidelines for infection control of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne viruses in schools" listed below, will also be displayed in the Sick Room, along with the name and phone number of our nearest health service.
4. In the event of a child being unwell at school, the following will apply:
 - Every effort will be made to contact the caregiver/whanau member and appropriate steps will be taken to care for the child until they are collected.
 - Parents/caregivers of children who appear to have a high temperature will automatically be notified.
5. Children with repeated bouts of vomiting and/or diarrhea should not attend school for 24 hours after the last vomit or diarrhea.
7. Policy and documentation will be reviewed annually for accuracy and relevance.

GUIDELINES FOR INFECTION CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS AND OTHER BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES IN SCHOOLS

1. Before treating a child who is bleeding, make sure you cover any cuts or abrasions with a water-proof dressing.
2. Wear gloves for all procedures.
3. Don't delay treatment of a child who is bleeding, **UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE** because gloves are not immediately available. Use absorbent barriers such as a towel, paper towel, handkerchief etc for an actively bleeding child.
4. Dispose of used gloves, soiled dressings, sanitary towels, tissues, etc, in a place where they will not be handled, eg. In bags which are burnt or buried.
5. Wipe clean and then sterilise all surfaces and instruments contaminated with blood. Make sure you use an effective disinfectant, eg: one volume of household bleach to 9 volumes of cold water.
6. Soak surfaces for 20 minutes and then wipe dry. Prepare a fresh solution immediately before you want to use it.
7. Wash hands thoroughly when you have finished. Hand washing is usually adequate for non-blood secretions, but the above precautions (ie. Gloves, etc) can also be used.
8. Make sure that first aid kits include disposable gloves, disposable wipes or towels, plastic bags for contaminated waste, a skin disinfectant and a bleach solution (or hypochlorite solution/ or granules) with instructions for use.

Hygiene Procedures:

- School staff to be responsible for administering first aid for open cuts, sores, wounds, etc.
- Incidents requiring parental contact, to be recorded in appropriate book in school office.
- Wipe down the benches and other bloodied areas with cold or tepid tap water and then with household bleach eg. Janola – freshly diluted – 1 part Janola to 9 parts water.
- Caretaker to attend to any contaminated areas.
- Any contaminated bedding is to be washed separately in hot water with a 10% bleach solution.

Toileting

- Staff will not be involved in toileting children, unless a care plan or care arrangements is in place; (refer child protection). Children to be seated in an appropriate area so as to contain contamination. Parents will be contacted when children have soiled or wet themselves.

Nose Bleeds

- Child to apply pressure to own nose until staff member can apply suitable first aid.

Drinking Fountains

- These are to be regularly maintained by caretaker to enhance hygiene by ensuring each fountain has adequate water pressure so that mouths don't come in contact with water outlets.

Musical Instruments (Woodwind etc)

- All mouthpieces to be removed and placed in a solution of bleach (1 part Janola to 9 parts water). **SOLUTION TO BE MADE FRESH DAILY.**

Field Trips

- Adequately stocked portable first aid equipment, including gloves, must accompany each group.