

Infectious Diseases

Introduction

Students and staff have the right to study and work in a safe, healthy environment. This procedure provides guidelines to ensure this occurs in a supportive manner and without discrimination. The document also provides guidance to the wider school community when preparing for, and where possible preventing, the spread of an infection.

Purpose

- Infectious diseases can spread easily amongst students and staff in a school setting. In some cases students and staff may need to stay away to prevent spreading of an illness or disease.
- There shall be no discrimination against infected students in terms of enrolment or staff in terms of employment. All people with infectious diseases are entitled to the same rights and considerations as any other person with a health condition.
- Ensure that the Ministry of Health are informed of any known notifiable disease within the school under the Health Act 1956.

Guidelines and Procedures

- Strict confidentiality of a student or staff medical information will be maintained and will not be disclosed to others without their permission.
- Disclosure of blood borne viruses is encouraged but entirely voluntary.
- Staff will be advised of measures to keep themselves and students free from infectious diseases.
- Teaching programmes will promote healthy living and good personal hygiene. For example, regular hand washing, dealing with coughing and sneezing in a considerate manner, sharing drink bottles, not touching blood or bodily fluids etc.
- If the Ministry of Health advises the school of an infectious disease outbreak, the school will follow their advice including communication to the parent community.
- The Principal will notify the Ministry of Health of any staff or student with a notifiable disease as listed under the Health Act 1956 and then follow any advice.
- The parent community will be kept informed of any relevant health concerns, regardless of whether the disease is notifiable or not. Any advice and/or action required will be as recommended by the Ministry of Health.
- When dealing with any injury, all people will be treated as if they have a blood borne virus e.g. the first aider will wear gloves or ask patient to apply pressure to any open wound. *See Appendix A below for more details.*
- Notices detailing the safe hygiene practices pertaining to the blood borne viruses are displayed where appropriate, including the First Aid room and in First Aid kits.
- First Aid training will be provided every two years on a Staff-only day. Staff who are not available to attend must make other arrangements to ensure their qualification is current.
- The BOT will fund annual Flu vaccinations.
- Hepatitis B immunization for staff is encouraged.

Conclusion

Paraparaumu Beach School is committed to a high standard of health practices, as informed by the Ministry of Health, enabling us to provide a safe and supportive environment.

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Appendix A

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

- **Before treating a child or teacher who is bleeding, make sure you cover any of your own cuts or abrasions with a water-proof dressing.**
- Wear gloves for all procedures.
- Don't delay treatment of a child who is bleeding **under any circumstances** because gloves are not immediately available. Use an absorbent barrier such as a towel, paper towel, handkerchief etc. for an actively bleeding child. Wherever practical ask the student to hold the absorbent barrier in place themselves.
- Dispose of used gloves, soiled dressings, sanitary towels, tissues, etc. in a place where they will not be handled or openly exposed.
- Wipe clean and then sterilize all surfaces and instruments contaminated with blood. Make sure you use an effective disinfectant, e.g. (one volume of household bleach to nine volumes of cold water).
- Soak surfaces for 20 minutes and then wipe dry. Prepare a fresh solution immediately before you want to use it.
- Wash hands thoroughly when you have finished. Hand washing is usually adequate for non-blood secretions, but the above precautions (i.e. gloves, etc) can also be used.
- Make sure that first-aid kits include disposable gloves, disposable wipes or towels, plastic bags for contaminated waste, a skin disinfectant.

Appendix B

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING A MEASLES NOTIFICATION AT PBS

- When there are known cases of measles in the district, class teachers will be given an updated class list (for their awareness) highlighting those students who are either not immunized or not known by the school to be immunised.

This documentation will be vital if the school is notified of a case of measles amongst school staff or students.

- When/if the school is notified of a confirmed case of measles or the Principal believes on reasonable grounds that a student has measles:
 - the student will be removed from class and placed in the medical room. Anyone else already in the medical room will be relocated.
 - The Principal will contact the student's parents/caregivers and direct them to arrange immediate collection (under **Section 19 Education Act**)
 - The Principal must inform the Medical Officer of Health, the student's parents and the Board of Trustees of this action to preclude.
 - The student will be required to stay away from school for at least 5 days after the appearance of the rash.
 - **NB: Only a Medical Officer of Health can direct parents of any student that they need to stay home if they are not immune/immunised or if they have been in close contact with someone who has measles**

- If a staff member develops measles or is suspected of having measles the Principal can ask that staff member to stay home or go home from work. If a staff member does not want to stay in isolation, they can be directed to do so by a Medical Office of Health (under the **Health Act**).

- The school community will be notified via a blanket statement "The school has a confirmed case of measles amongst the student/staff population. Please be aware of the symptoms and contact your GP if you have concerns about your child's health". Confidentiality regarding the person/people affected will be maintained.

- Staff members tending a student/staff member with measles need to ensure their own safety by wearing gloves, a face mask, regularly washing hands and disinfecting the area after the patient has left.

- The Medical Officer of Health can also issue a direction for the whole school requiring non-immune exposed contacts to be excluded until the end of a quarantine period

- Students and staff cannot be excluded just because they are not vaccinated
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