



Oakleigh Grammar

Policy Document Name	Infectious Diseases
Date Ratified by Board of Management	November 2021
Date for Review	November 2024

1. Preamble

Schools are expected to be safe and healthy places for staff and students to enjoy. Students with infectious diseases need to be managed in a manner that protects their privacy, maintains their health and dignity, and ensures the health and safety of all others.

2. Purpose

To provide a safe and healthy workplace for all.

3. Protocols

- a. Certain infectious diseases require specific considerations including the exclusion of students from School.
- b. The current Department of Health and Human Services School Exclusion Table outlines the minimum period of exclusion from schools for infectious diseases cases and contacts as prescribed under Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (regulation 111). The School will abide by the exclusion requirements.
- c. The regulations require the parent/guardian to inform the Principal as soon as practicable if the child is infected with any of the diseases listed in the table, or has been in contact with an infected person. It should be noted that in cases of diphtheria, typhoid and paratyphoid fever, exclusion and determination of recovery will be matters for the municipal medical officer of health.
- d. Patients or contacts shall be prevented from attending School unless they comply with the conditions prescribed in the table.
- e. During outbreaks of diseases prescribed in the table, the Principal will direct parents/guardians of students who are not immunised to keep their children at home for the recommended period.
- f. The School will meet all obligations in their response to a COVID-19 outbreak as outlined in the Department of Education School Operations Guide. Refer to COVID-19 Policy.

4. Conditions of Compliance

Principals are required to exclude students according to the School Exclusion table under the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (regulation 111).

5. *Vaccine preventable diseases*

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (regulation 111). requires the Principal or person in charge of a school or children's services centre to notify the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS), as well as the parent or guardian of the child, if they believe a child is suffering from a vaccine preventable disease, in order to receive instructions on the exclusion of the child. Prior to exclusion of the child the school should call the DHS Communicable Disease Control Unit on 1300 651 160 to obtain information on the disease and ensure any exclusions are made based on firm medical evidence of the diagnosis of a vaccine preventable disease.

Appendix

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>