



Karingal Heights Primary School

Immunisation and Infectious Diseases Policy

Rationale:

To inform parents and schools about their student immunisation responsibilities and exclusion processes during an infectious disease outbreak.

Implementation:

While responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious diseases is primarily with individuals, families and public health authorities; schools also have an important role to play.

Schools:

- are required to request and record the immunisation status of each child, i.e. primary students prior to enrolment.
- must follow exclusion requirements, as required.

Schools can support the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by:

- supporting immunisation programs.
- providing prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease.

Schools should not be expected to:

- give expert advice or treat students. This is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities, as appropriate.

Note: Prior to commencing primary school, children should have received their childhood vaccinations as per the National Immunisation Program Schedule.

Definitions:

Vaccination means having a vaccine – that is, receiving an injection.

Immunisation means both receiving a vaccine and becoming immune to a disease as a result of being vaccinated.

Exclusion is the period of time for which a student is required to not attend school.

School Responsibilities – Exclusion Processes

This table details the exclusion processes for primary and secondary students.

Student Exclusion Process

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 require children with certain infectious diseases, and children who have been in contact with certain infectious diseases, to be excluded from school for a specified period.

During an outbreak of an infectious disease principals of primary students must:

- be aware of and abide by exclusion requirements
- not allow a child to attend school if:
 - they have been informed that the child is infected with an infectious disease, that requires exclusion, as described in Column 2 of Schedule 7 (the school exclusion table).
 - they have been informed that a child is a contact of a person who is infected with an infectious disease as described in Column 3 of Schedule 7 (the school exclusion table).
 - they have not been immunised against a vaccine preventable disease and are directed to do so by the Secretary and until the Secretary directs that such attendance can be resumed.

Related legislation

Education and Training Reform Act 2006

Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007

Family Law Act 1975

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009

Department resources

