

**ST MARY'S  
COLLEGE**

# St Mary's College

## *Infectious Disease (Student) Guidelines*

### **The Hazard – Infectious Diseases**

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

- chicken pox;
- conjunctivitis;
- diarrhoea;
- diphtheria;
- German measles (rubella);
- glandular fever;
- haemophilus influenza type b (hib);
- hand, foot and mouth;
- hepatitis A;
- hepatitis B;
- hepatitis C;
- HIV/AIDS;
- influenza (the flu);
- measles;
- meningitis;
- molluscum contagiosum;
- mumps;
- poliomyelitis (polio);
- ringworm;
- scabies;
- school sores (impetigo);
- slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease/parvovirus);
- tetanus; and
- whooping cough (pertussis).

### **St Mary's College Policy**

St Mary's College is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all 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 college 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 college; and
- where appropriate, we seek advice from and liaise with the Department of Health about the occurrence of an infectious disease.

### **Parent/Carer Responsibility**

Parents/Carers are required to:

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- provide the college with an immunisation record upon enrolment of their child;
- keep children who have not been immunised at home during an outbreak of an infectious disease;
- take reasonable precautions against transmitting a condition if they know or suspect that their child has a transmissible notifiable condition;
- inform the Principal as soon as possible if they have reasonable grounds for believing that their child may have an infectious disease, has been in contact with an infected person, or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease;
- comply with college staff directions with respect to exclusion from and return to college due to the student's condition; and
- follow the advice of a doctor, Chief Health Officer or authorised public health officer/medical officer.

## **Immunisation Policy**

St Mary's College encourages all staff and students to be vaccinated to protect them against the outbreak of infectious diseases.

Immunisation records are requested upon enrolment and stored in student medical records which are maintained in accordance with our Medical Records (Student) Policy. Prospective students will not be excluded from attending college, provided that the parent/guardian has provided a statutory declaration that either:

he or she has a conscientious objection to immunisation against that disease; or

believes that the child has been immunised against that disease but cannot produce any immunisation certificate or other proof of immunisation.

## **Infection Control Policy**

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, it may be necessary to restrict attendance of non-immune students or implement restrictions to protect these students and prevent further spread of disease.

The student may be excluded from college in accordance with the recommended minimum exclusion periods in the Tasmanian Department of Education School Attendance Procedures.

## **Incident Procedures**

In the event a student becomes unwell at college with an infectious disease, immediate medical treatment should be provided following the procedures outlined in the First Aid Policy. Students should then be transferred to the care of a parent/carer.

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## Tasmania Department of Health and Human Services Contact Details

### Phone

1800 671 738

1300 135 513

### Email

[public.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:public.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

### Website

[www.dhhs.tas.gov.au](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au)

### Parent Line

1300 808 178

[www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service\\_information/children\\_and\\_families/parentline](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/children_and_families/parentline)

### Health Direct (24 hours)

1800 022 222

[www.healthdirect.gov.au](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au)

Further information on disease notification requirements can be found on the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services website.

## Workers' Responsibility

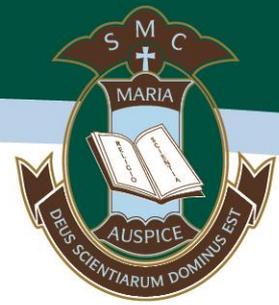
All workers are responsible for ensuring that they:

- implement infection control practices to minimise the risk of exposure to infectious diseases for themselves and their students; and
- be aware of infectious diseases which they have been vaccinated against and keep their immunisation records up-to-date.

## Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

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- 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**

Where a staff member breaches this policy St Mary's College may take disciplinary action.

### **Reference Material**

[Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services Infectious Diseases Website](#)

[Tasmanian Department of Education School Attendance Procedures](#)

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