

Illness and Infectious Diseases Policy & Guidelines

Overview

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

- **Chickenpox and Shingles**
- **Gastroenteritis**
- **Mumps**
- **Measles**
- **Rubella (German measles and**
- **Whooping cough (Pertussis)**

Policy

Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all of our students.

We implement clear guidelines for the management of illness and infectious diseases

We provide education, support and resources for staff, parents/carers, students and the wider school community on dealing with infectious diseases; and

The School's responsibilities in relation to illness will be adhered to in accordance with legislative requirements. The school will monitor student illness and have in place procedures to ensure that they do their best to keep students safe at all times while in the care of the school. We will inform the relevant public health unit of the occurrence of any notifiable diseases.

Parent/Carer Responsibility

Parents/Carers are required to inform the school of any infectious illness or disease their child is diagnosed with, and not allow them to attend school while infectious.

Parents have a responsibility to keep children at home if they are ill. They can bring infections that may cause other children and staff to become ill. In case of accident or illness at school, if neither parents nor nominated persons can be contacted, staff may consult the child's doctor or the hospital.

Parents will be contacted if their child is sick and, in the opinion of the Principal, should not be in attendance at school. If not available, other emergency contact persons may be asked to collect the child.

If a child is sent home unwell he/she should not return to the school until fully recovered, or are no longer infectious to the other children and staff.

Immunisation

Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School encourages all staff and students to familiarise themselves with vaccine requirements as per NSW health.

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 school if they have not been immunised.

In the event of an outbreak of a disease that vaccines may be provided for, the Department of Health will advise the School when unimmunised children are required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak. Particular arrangements will be worked out in consultation with our local public health unit.

Infection Control Policy

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

Notification of Infectious Diseases

It is a legal requirement that our Principal notifies the NSW Ministry of Health and our local public health unit by phone as soon as possible after they are made aware that a student enrolled at the school is suffering from one of the following infectious diseases including:

- **Chickenpox;**
- **Diphtheria;**
- **Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib);**
- **Measles;**
- **Meningococcal type C;**
- **Mumps;**
- **Rubella (German measles);**
- **Tetanus;**
- **Pertussis (whooping cough); and**
- **Polio.**

Further information on disease notification requirements can be found on the [NSW Ministry of Health](#) website.

Contact Details for Public Health Units

Contact details for our local Public Health Unit are as follows:

Hornsby Office
Hornsby Hospital, Palmerston Rd, Hornsby 2077
Ph: 02 9477 9400
Fax: 02 9482 1650 / 1358 (*s)
Ph: 02 9477 9123
(Hornsby Hospital)
Ask for Public Health Officer on call

Responsibility of Staff

All Staff are responsible to ensure 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:

- 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.

For more information on our Illness and Infectious Diseases Policy please contact the School Office.