

DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY



PURPOSE:

McLaren Vale Primary School will plan for and respond effectively to minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases. Ensuring the health and safety of children, and staff, and supporting children's ongoing wellbeing, is a core focus of the delivery of our school. Staff need to be aware of the likelihood of children being exposed to an infectious illness whilst at school. Maintaining hygiene practices within the school and teaching children about health and hygiene will assist in the prevention of infectious diseases. Providing families with timely and current information will further support this process.

AIMS:

Children's exposure to infectious diseases will be minimised by:

- MVPS following all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases
- Promotion of practices that reduce the transmission of infection
- The exclusion of sick children and staff; and
- The implementation of effective handwashing procedures.

PROCEDURE:

- Students, staff, volunteers, work experience students, pre-service teachers are not to attend school when unwell, e.g. cold, raised temperature, gastro, pale, lethargic or cough/flu
- Parents/caregivers are to notify the school if their child is to be absent
- Parents/caregivers are to keep their child at home until well or a doctor has given the all clear to attend school. **Please keep your child away from school for at least 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhoea episodes to prevent the spread of infection**
- When a child shows symptoms of illness whilst at school, staff will care for them and contact the parent/emergency contact person
- If there is an infectious disease at MVPS, the staff will ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of the infectious disease at the school
- Infectious disease notification will be communicated to parents/guardians by email, Seesaw and SMS.

MCLAREN VALE PRIMARY WILL:

- Ensure that all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority, such as the SA Health website
- In the case of significant infectious disease, the school will contact and take advice from the SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch
- Ensure that children are reasonably protected from harm by working with the principal and staff on developing, implementing and reviewing policy that will guide health and safety procedures; and

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- Collect, maintain and store appropriately the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children
- Develop procedures for:
 - Maintaining a hygienic environment
 - Providing families with relevant infectious diseases, health and hygiene information
 - Guiding children's health and hygiene throughout the daily program
 - Maintaining relevant records regarding the relevant medical conditions of children/staff at MVPS
- Develop an enrolment procedure that captures all required information regarding the medical conditions of students
- Provide relevant sourced materials to families about:
 - Advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any specific infectious illnesses that are suspected/present at MVPS
 - Providing information on illnesses (as soon as practicable after the occurrence of an infectious disease).
- Provide information to families as soon as practicable of the occurrence of an infectious disease that describe the:
 - nature of illness
 - incubation period
 - infectious and inclusion periods.
- This information will be sourced from a reliable source such as SA Health
- Ensure that an IRMS record is completed, if required, within 24 hours of the outbreak occurring
- Ensure that all educators are aware of individual children's circumstances i.e. first aid officer / Principal relay relevant children's details from enrolment form to staff team before children commence school (or when known)
- Maintaining confidentiality with regards to children's individual medical circumstances, by putting procedures in place to safeguard children and families personal information
- Provide regular reminders to families to keep information in children's enrolment records up to date
- Providing opportunities for educators to source relevant up to date information on the prevention of infectious diseases and maintaining health and hygiene from trusted sources
- Ensuring opportunities for staff and families to be involved in the review of the policies and procedures regarding children's health and safety
- Inform and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding infectious diseases as required.

Reviewed and verified by Governing Council: 2021