



## Infectious Disease Policy

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

- Chickenpox (varicella);
- COVID 19 (coronavirus);
- Gastroenteritis;
- German measles (rubella);
- Haemophilus influenzae infections;
- Hepatitis A;
- Measles (rubeola);
- Meningococcal;
- Poliomyelitis;
- Typhoid and paratyphoid fever; and
- Whooping cough (pertussis).

More information about these diseases can be found on the [Victorian Department of Health website](#).

### Harkaway Hills College's Policy

Harkaway Hills 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/guardians, 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 students who become ill at school
- we inform the Department of Health and Human Services of the occurrence of any notifiable conditions

### Parent/Guardian Responsibility

Parents/guardians are required to:

- inform the College of any excludable infectious disease their child is diagnosed with. The [complete list of infectious diseases](#) with the exclusion status of the disease can be found on the Department of Health and Human Services website
- inform the College if their child has been in contact with a person infected with diphtheria, measles (if the child is unimmunised) and whooping cough (if the child is under seven years old)
- give an immunisation status certificate in respect of each vaccine-preventable disease to the College
- follow medical advice with respect to exclusion from and return to school of their child
- comply with College staff directions for time out of school for the student's condition



### **Immunisation Policy**

All staff should be fully immunised and know their immunisation status, to protect them against the outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases.

For students, immunisation status certificates must be provided upon enrolment and will be stored in student medical records which are kept up-to-date in accordance with our Student Medical Records policy.

It is the College's policy that for all students enrolling in early education services, confirmation of immunisation must be provided through an immunisation status certificate from the Australian Immunisation Register under section 143B of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic). All other certificates are invalid for the purposes of enrolment in early education services.

Students who have not received any immunisations must still provide a certificate. Certificates will assist in the event of a disease outbreak, where unimmunised children can be quickly identified and excluded from school until the risk of infection has passed. Records of the information in each immunisation status certificate must be kept for the duration that the student attends the College.

It is recommended that staff and students are immunised according to the [Immunisation Schedule Victoria](#).

Prospective students will not be excluded from attending school if they have not been immunised

### **Infection Control Policy**

Where the Principal believes on reasonable grounds that a student is suffering from a vaccine-preventable disease, they will notify the Department of Health and Human Services as well as the parents/guardians of the child, in order to receive instructions on the collection or exclusion of the child.

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease at the College, any student diagnosed with the infectious disease should not attend school in order to prevent the spread of the condition among staff and other students.

Infected primary students and students who have been in contact with a person who has an infectious disease or condition that requires exclusion will be excluded from school in accordance with the [school exclusion table](#).

Specific management and communication arrangements will be made in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services or another authorised representative of the Chief Health Officer.

When directed by the Department of Health and Human Services or another authorised representative of the Chief Health Officer, the Principal will ensure students at the College who are not immunised against vaccine-preventable diseases, do not attend the College until the Department advises that attendance can be resumed.



## **Incident Procedures**

In the event a student becomes unwell at the College with an infectious disease, immediate medical treatment should be provided following the procedures outlined in our First Aid policy. The student should then be transferred to the care of their parent/guardian

See **Appendix II** for the College's COVID-19 Safety Policy and Procedure.

## **Staff Responsibilities**

Staff must:

- advise the Principal if they know or reasonably suspect that a student may have an infectious disease
- implement infection control practices to minimise the risk of exposure to infectious diseases for themselves and students
- be aware of infectious diseases which they have been vaccinated against and keep their immunisation records up-to-date
- maintain privacy and confidentiality of student information and documentation on suspected/confirmed infectious diseases

## **Implementation**

This Policy is implemented through a combination of:

- staff training and supervision
- maintenance of staff and student medical records
- effective incident notification procedures
- effective communication procedures with students' parents/guardians
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary

**Last updated: February 2023**

# **Appendix I**

## **Contact for the Communicable Diseases Section of the Department of Health and Human Services**

- Phone 1300 651 160
- Email [infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au)
- Post to Reply Paid 65937, Melbourne VIC 8060
- [Online](#)



## **Appendix II**

### **COVID-19 Safety Policy and Procedure**

The following COVID-safe procedures are in place from 11.59pm Wednesday 12th October 2022 until further notice for the protection of the school community.

#### **School Operations**

Harkaway Hills College is open to all students in line with the current requirements from the State Government.

#### **Parents and Visitors**

1. If a parent or visitor has a COVID positive person in their household, it is recommended that they wear a facemask before attending school events.
2. It is recommended that parents and visitors do not enter College grounds within 5-days of testing positive to COVID. However, COVID-positive parents are permitted to drop their COVID-negative children off at school if they remain in their vehicle.
3. Vaccination certificates are not required for parents or visitors.
4. Parents are welcome to enter the College grounds and visit the Chapel via the front gates during drop off and pick up without restriction.
5. Parents visiting College grounds during school hours must continue to enter the College grounds via the Front Office.

#### **Staff and Volunteer Health Guidelines**

1. PARED Victoria Staff and Volunteers who work with children will be following all Government guidelines for the safety of our school community, including isolation, and testing requirements in the event of a positive COVID case.
2. The current Government advice is that face masks are recommended, but not compulsory for staff and volunteers under normal circumstances.
3. Vaccination certificates are not required for staff or volunteers.
4. Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) is highly recommended for all staff when symptomatic.
5. If a staff member or volunteer has a COVID positive person in their household, it is recommended to wear a facemask when attending school.

#### **Student Health Guidelines**

1. Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) is highly recommended for all students when symptomatic. Please contact the relevant School Office if your child tests positive.
2. The College will supply Rapid Antigen Tests to families on an as-needed basis.
3. It is recommended that students isolate for a minimum of 5 days after testing positive before coming back to school.
4. If a student of any age is a household contact of someone who is COVID positive, it is recommended that they wear a face mask when attending school.



### **Ongoing Health and Safety Measures**

1. Staff will continue to reinforce hand washing on a frequent basis. Hand sanitiser will be available in every occupied room.
2. If a student is displaying flu-like symptoms, the student should remain at home. Siblings will not need to remain at home if they are asymptomatic. Please call the School Office if you are unsure.
3. If anyone is diagnosed with COVID-19 they must notify the school.