



Rationale:

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

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.

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, and
- can support the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by:
 - supporting immunisation programs, and
 - providing prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease.
- **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.

School Responsibilities – Exclusion Processes

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

Student	Exclusion Process
Primary Students	<p>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.</p> <p>During an outbreak of an infectious disease principals of primary students must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aware of and abide by exclusion requirements • not allow a child to attend school if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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) <p>http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/guidelines/school-exclusion-table.asp</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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). http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/guidelines/school-exclusion-table.asp○ they have not been immunised against a vaccine preventable disease and are directed to do so by the principal and until the principal 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

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the three-year review cycle, in accordance to the Department's immunisation policies.

This policy was ratified by School Council in December 2015