

St John's Lutheran School, Kingaroy

Communicable Diseases Exclusion Guidelines

This policy covers very serious and life-threatening infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B, and is in accord with the "Statement on HIV and AIDS" which has been issued by the Lutheran Church of Australia. It has been adopted by the Council of St. John's Lutheran School to safeguard the health and safety of students and staff and to provide parents, administration and staff with a public statement of the nature and extent of their responsibilities with regard to infectious diseases.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

- 1.1 To safeguard the health and safety of students and staff, the school will:
 - ensure that staff are adequately informed about life threatening infectious diseases and the measures required to prevent their spread.
 - issue guidelines and procedures to be followed by staff and students in order to minimise risks associated with infectious diseases.
 - where necessary, obtain medical advice on questions relating to the possible risk of infection.
 - provide adequate resources to enable these guidelines and procedures to be implemented.
 - ensure that staff and students adhere strictly to these guidelines and procedures.
- 1.2 In view of the seriousness of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, the school may provide appropriate educational programs which aim to ensure that students are adequately informed about the nature of these diseases, the means by which they are transmitted and measures to be taken to prevent their spread.
- 1.3 In accord with its Christian commitment, the school will urge its staff and students to show compassion to those suffering from HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases irrespective of how they contracted the disease.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

- 2.1 Because of the need to protect the health and well-being of staff and students, parents seeking to enrol a student at the school are required to inform the Principal, in confidence, of any serious infectious disease which the student carries or has suffered and to provide information about any medically required treatments and measures to prevent the transmission of the disease. Provision for this duty of disclosure is made in the enrolment procedure.
- 2.2 In any case where an existing student of the school contracts a serious infectious disease, parents are required to inform the Principal, in confidence, without delay and to provide information about any medically required treatments and measures to prevent the spread of the infection.
- 2.3 The parents of a student suffering from a serious infectious disease will be expected to co-operate with the school in planning and providing suitable support for the student. They will also be expected to assume the primary responsibility for teaching and requiring their child to behave and respond in the school context in such a way as to prevent the risk of infecting others.

3. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 3.1 When disclosing information about a student suffering from an infectious disease, parents may request the Principal to keep this information confidential or that it be restricted to specified members of staff.
On receiving this request, the Principal will discuss the matter with the parents and endeavour to reach a mutually acceptable decision.

- 3.2 In all cases the final responsibility for determining the level of confidentiality to be observed will rest with the Principal. The parents of the affected student will be required to enter a written agreement with the school which clearly defines how and for what purposes the information will be used by the school.
- 3.3 At no time will the identity of a student suffering from a life-threatening infectious disease be intentionally disclosed to other students, except after negotiation and agreement with parents.
- 3.4 Any staff member who receives confidential information about a student sufferer will be required to maintain strict confidentiality.

4. ENROLMENT CONDITIONS

- 4.1 A student who has a life-threatening infectious disease will be admitted to the school and/or permitted to remain at the school under the following conditions:
 - a) that the school is able to provide the resources needed to ensure adequate care for the student.
 - b) that the risk to the health and safety of other members of the school community is at an acceptable level.
 - c) that the conduct of the student, particularly in relation to the disease, is acceptable.
 - d) that the parents undertake to inform the school of any deterioration in the student's medical condition.
- 4.2 The school will determine whether the above conditions are being met and reserves the right to refuse admission to a student sufferer or to ask for the removal of such a student if they are not. In making a decision about admission or removal, the health and safety of all members of the school community will be of paramount importance.

Information about a worker at the School suffering from an infectious disease will be kept confidential by the Principal; however, if in the view of the Principal, the health and safety of other members of the school community is being endangered, the Principal may inform those who are potentially at risk.