



St. Patrick's Primary School Immunisation Policy

Reviewed: September 2020
Ratified: (Month Year)
Next Review: 2022

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to inform St. Patrick's Primary School's community about student immunisation responsibilities and exclusion processes during an infectious disease outbreak.

Definitions

Vaccination: Receiving an injection or an oral dose of a vaccination to produce immunity against a disease.

Immunisation: Receiving a vaccine and becoming immune to a disease as a result of being vaccinated.

Exclusion Period: is the period of time for which a student is required to not attend school.

Implementation

Whilst Individuals, families and public health authorities are fundamentally responsible for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, schools also play an important role.

St. Patrick's Primary School is required to:

- Request that parents & guardians of primary school students provide an Immunisation History Statement for their child from the Australian Immunisation Register.
- Maintain records of all Immunisation History Statements.
- Record information regarding the immunisation status of each student enrolled at the school.
- Support the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by:
 - Supporting immunisation programs.
 - Providing a prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease.

Note: Schools are not expected to give expert advice or treat students; this is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities, as appropriate.

Immunisation Certificates:

Prior to commencing primary school, children should have received their childhood vaccinations as per the [National Immunisation Program Schedule](#).

The certificate is simply a current history statement listing vaccines the child has received with the corresponding dates the vaccines were given. The certificate must be on local government letterhead and include:

- The child's name
- The family's address

- Date of birth
- Name of vaccine with corresponding date of administration
- Signature of an authorised officer.

If there is no documented immunisation record available and the parent or guardian believes their child has been fully vaccinated, then the certificate will need to indicate that there was no record of immunisation to sight.

In the event that a child is not immunised due to parental or guardian objection, the certificate will need to indicate the child is not immunised.

Homeopathic 'immunisation' is not a recognised form of immunisation and is not acceptable under the legislation. If a child has been homoeopathically 'immunised' then the certificate will need to indicate the child is not immunised.

Exclusion Process:

As outlined in the [Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019](#) St. Patrick's Primary School must not permit a child to attend school if:

- They have been informed that the child is infected with an infectious disease, confirmed by a medical practitioner, that requires exclusion as described in the DHHS School exclusion table.
- They have been informed that a child has been in contact with a person deemed to have an infectious disease as described in the School exclusion table.
- The Chief Health Officer directs a primary school to exclude a child based on material risk of a child contracting a vaccine-preventable disease (i.e. a child who is not immunised to be excluded until advised attendance can be resumed).

Refer to the [DEET Minimum Period for Exclusion - Infectious Diseases](#)

References

Victoria, Department of Education and Training, Immunisation Policy 2020

Victoria, State Government, Health Victoria, School Exclusion Table

Victoria, State Government, Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (regulation 111)