

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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LAUNCESTON
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

Infectious Diseases (Student)

This policy follows the authority provided in the Government Department of Health (Tas) Guidelines and has been developed with review by an external medical authority.

The Hazard – Infectious Diseases

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

- chickenpox
- conjunctivitis
- diarrhoea
- diphtheria
- German measles (rubella)
- glandular fever
- haemophilus influenza type b (hib)
- hand, foot and mouth
- hepatitis A
- hepatitis B
- hepatitis C
- HIV/AIDS
- influenza (the flu)
- measles
- meningitis
- molluscum contagiosum
- mumps
- poliomyelitis (polio)
- ringworm
- scabies
- school sores (impetigo)
- slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease/parvovirus)
- tetanus
- whooping cough (pertussis).

More information about these diseases can be found on the [Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\) website](#).

LCS's Policy

LCS 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 School 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
- where appropriate, we seek advice from and liaise with the Department of Health about the occurrence of an infectious disease.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Parents/guardians are required to:

- provide the School with an immunisation record upon enrolment of their child
- keep children who have not been immunised at home during an outbreak of an infectious disease

- take reasonable precautions against transmitting a condition if they know or suspect that their child has a transmissible notifiable condition
- inform the Principal as soon as possible if they have reasonable grounds for believing that their child may have an infectious disease, has been in contact with an infected person, or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease
- comply with School staff directions with respect to exclusion from and return to school due to the student's condition
- follow the advice of a doctor, Chief Health Officer or authorised public health officer/medical officer.

Immunisation Policy

The School encourages all staff and students to be vaccinated to protect them against the outbreak of infectious diseases.

Immunisation records are requested upon enrolment and stored in student medical records which are maintained in accordance with our Medical Records (Student) policy. Prospective students will not be excluded from attending school, provided that their parent/guardian has provided a written declaration that either:

- they have a conscientious objection to immunisation against that disease
- they believe that their child has been immunised against that disease, but cannot produce any immunisation certificate or other proof of immunisation.

Infection Control Policy

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, it may be necessary to restrict attendance of non-immune students, or implement restrictions to protect these students and prevent further spread of disease.

The student may be excluded from school in accordance with the recommended minimum exclusion periods in the Tasmanian Department of Education School Attendance Procedures.

Incident Procedures

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

Tasmania Department of Health and Human Services Contact Details

Further information on disease notification requirements can be found on the [Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services website](#) or by phoning the Tasmanian DHHS Public Health Hotline 1800 671 738.