



IMMUNISATION POLICY

Brunswick South Primary School

Policy	Review Date	Responsible for
Implementation Date	2021	Review
March 2018		Policy Subcommittee

RATIONALE

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

DEFINITIONS

Definitions:

- Vaccination means having a vaccine – that is, receiving an injection or an oral dose of a vaccination.
- 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.

AIM OF THE POLICY

1. To help prevent and control the transmission of infectious diseases in the school community
2. To ensure the school complies with DET policy and legislative requirements
3. Collect and record information on the School Information System (SIS) regarding student's immunisation status; and
4. Provide information regarding the immunization record of any student to the Department of Health on request.
5. Provide information to parents and carers of children about disease outbreaks and exclusion periods required should a local outbreak occur.

IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATE

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:

- Child's name
- 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 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 a child is not immunised due to parental 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.

IMPLEMENTATION

BSPS understands that while responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious disease rests primarily with individuals, families and public health authorities, schools also have an important role to play.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY

- BSPS is required to request and record the immunization status of each child prior to enrolment and to keep this information up to date.
- BSPS will follow guidelines as laid out in The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 which requires children with certain infectious diseases, children who have been in contact with certain infectious diseases, and children who have not been immunized against vaccine preventable disease specified by the Secretary are to be excluded from school for a specified period of time.
- BSPS will support the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by providing a prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease.

EXCLUSION PROCESS

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 (regulation 85) states that during an outbreak of an infectious disease, the Principal or acting Principal must be aware of and abide by exclusion requirements and not allow a child to attend school if:

- A child has been infected with an infectious disease, that requires exclusion (as described in Column 2 of Schedule 7 (the school exclusion table)
- A child has been in contact with a person who is infected with an infectious disease as described in Column 3 of Schedule 7 (the school exclusion table) or
- A child who has not been immunised against a vaccine preventable disease (VPD) specified by the Secretary, does not attend the school until the Secretary directs that such attendance can be resumed. (Note—VPDs marked in bold with an asterisk (*) – see Column 3 of Schedule 7 require the department to be informed immediately. Further advice about exclusion and these diseases can be found at the department on 1300 651 160).

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table> - Last viewed 7th December 2017

Appendix 1. Available at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>

