



## COMMUNICABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES GUIDELINES

### POLICY STATEMENT

The School has a key role in preventing the transmission of diseases in the school environment. While it is often difficult to prevent the transmission of common respiratory (colds/flu) and gastroenteritis infections that occur, every effort should be made to minimise the spread of infection.

St James' Anglican School is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all our staff and students.

### OVERVIEW

St James' Anglican School promotes student health, and identifies and minimises health risks, within the school's resources and with the assistance of the Department of Health's Communicable Disease Guidelines.

Many communicable diseases can affect children and young people, some common and others rare, including:

- Chickenpox and shingles\* (and other Varicella-Zoster virus infections)
- COVID – 19
- Diphtheria\*
- Gastroenteritis
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) infection (invasive)\*
- Hepatitis A\*
- Hepatitis B\*
- Influenza
- Measles\*
- Meningococcal infection (invasive)\*
- Mumps\*
- Pneumococcal infection (invasive)\*
- Poliovirus infection\*
- Rubella (German measles) \*
- Tetanus\*
- Whooping cough (Pertussis)\*

More information about these diseases can be found on the Department of Health website.

Diseases marked with a \* are vaccine-preventable notifiable infectious diseases as designated by the Department of Health.

### POLICY PROCEDURE

If a student or staff member has a communicable disease, the Principal (or nominee) will take action in accordance with the advice that has been provided by the Department of Health in managing communicable diseases.

#### **If the communicable disease is notifiable, the Principal (or nominee) will:**

- On advice from the Health Department the matter will be reported to the Perth – North Metro Public Health Unit and seek their advice before taking any further action; and
- Act in accordance with the advice provided by the Perth – North Metro Public Health Unit staff.
- A SEQTA email is sent out to all parents with an information leaflet specific to the communicable disease, from the Health Department's website.



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### **The School will aim to minimise the spread of infection by encouraging the following:**

- Staff and students should stay at home in the early stages of illness as at this stage they can be infectious and spread the virus, bacteria, or parasite through coughing, sneezing, contaminating surfaces and personal contact.
- The School staff and students who are ill should not return to work until they are symptom-free if they have a cold or flu and for at least 24 hours if they have gastroenteritis.
- The School staff who handle food who have had gastroenteritis should not return to work until they are symptom-free for at least 48 hours.
- Parents to seek medical advice if their child has ongoing symptoms of illness.

Many childhood infectious diseases require student/staff to be excluded from school for a recommended period of time. If they are unable to provide evidence of immunisation against specific diseases that are known to be highly transmissible, they will be excluded from school for the period recommended by the Department of Health.

### **Staff and students where appropriate will use the following strategies to prevent the transmission of infection:**

- Hand washing with soap and water for at least 15 seconds before preparing or eating food, after using the toilet, after blowing your nose with a tissue and after any contamination of the hands with body fluids such as blood and vomit.
- Effective cleaning with detergent and water, followed by rinsing and drying to remove the bulk of germs from environmental surfaces.
- The use of appropriate cleaning tools and use of protective personal equipment (gloves, mask) is important and should be easily accessible to clean up spills immediately, to prevent the aerosol spread of viruses and bacteria.
- Use of waterless hand cleansing gel in common areas.

See the Department of Health's Communicable Disease Guidelines which provides information regarding the incubation and exclusion criteria for diseases, and advice on when the Department of Health is to be notified.

### **Cases of COVID-19**

If there were to be a confirmed COVID-19 case in the school community, the School follows the protocols established by the WA Department of Education in collaboration with the Association of Independent Schools WA (AISWA) and The Anglican Schools Commission (ASC).



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### POLICY VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1	Jun - 14	Policy created to align with the Department of Health's Communicable Disease Guidelines.
2	Jun - 18	Policy reviewed and minor changes made to align with the Department of Health's Communicable Disease Guidelines.
2	Mar - 23	Policy reviewed and minor changes made to align with the Department of Health's Communicable Disease Guidelines. A list of communicable diseases is included COVID-19 included New format to include 'policy version control' table Review date amended