

Immunisation Policy



Purpose

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

Policy

While responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious diseases is primarily with individuals, families and public health authorities; schools also have an important role to play.

The table below details...

For...	Schools are required to...
Primary students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">request that parents of primary school students provide them with an Immunisation History Statement for their child from the Australian Immunisation Registermaintain records of all Immunisation History Statementsrecord information regarding the immunisation status of each enrolled child on CASES21 (whether an Immunisation History Statement has been received or not). <p>See: Admission, Enrolment</p>
All students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">follow exclusion requirements, as requiredsupport the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o supporting immunisation programso providing prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease. <p>Note: School are not expected to give expert advice or treat students; this is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities, as appropriate.</p>

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

Definitions

- Vaccination means having a vaccine – that is, receiving an injection.
- 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.



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School Responsibilities – Exclusion Processes

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 require children with certain infectious diseases, and children who have been in contact with certain infectious diseases, to be excluded from school for a specific period.

During an outbreak of an infectious disease, principals and primary students must:

- be aware of and abide by exclusion requirements
- not allow a child to attend school if:
 - they have been informed that the child is infected with an infectious disease, that requires exclusion, as described in Column 2 of Schedule 7 (the school exclusion table).
 - they have been informed that a child is a contact of a person who is infected with an infectious disease as described in Column 3 of Schedule 7 (the school exclusion table).
 - they have not been immunised against a vaccine preventable disease and are directed to do so by the Secretary and until the Secretary directs that such attendance can be resumed.

For any assistance or further advice contact the Department of Health - Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Section on 1300 651 160.

For further information on exclusion processes, see - [School Exclusion Table](#)

Evaluation

This policy shall be evaluated as part of the school's cyclic review process.