



## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is 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 the requirements of schools with reference to immunisation:

For...	Schools are required to...
Primary students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>request that parents/carers of primary school students provide them with an immunisation history statement for their child from the Australian Immunisation Register</li> <li>maintain records of all immunisation history statements</li> <li>record information regarding the immunisation status of each enrolled child on CASES21 (whether an Immunisation History Statement has been received or not).</li> </ul> <p>Note: Prior to commencing primary school, children should have received their childhood vaccinations as per the National Immunisation Program Schedule. See: <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/immunisation-throughout-life/national-immunisation-program-schedule">https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/immunisation-throughout-life/national-immunisation-program-schedule</a></p>
All students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>follow exclusion requirements, as required</li> <li>support the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supporting immunisation programs</li> <li>providing prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <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>

## Definitions

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



## RGLPS Immunisation Policy

- 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.

### School Responsibilities – Exclusion Processes

As set out in the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (Vic), principals of primary school-aged students must not allow 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 See: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>
- they have been informed that a child has been in contact with a person with an infectious disease as described in the School exclusion table
- during an outbreak, 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)

For any assistance or further advice contact the Department of Health - Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Section on 1300 651 160 or email the DET (Wellbeing, Health and Engagement Division) at [health.advice@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:health.advice@education.vic.gov.au).

### Related Policies

Infectious Diseases (DET): <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/infectious-diseases/policy>

Attendance (DET): <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/attendance/policy>

Enrolment (DET): <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/enrolment/policy>

Decision Making Responsibilities for Students (DET):

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/decision-making-responsibilities-students/policy>

International Student Program (DET): <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/international-student-program/policy>

### Relevant Legislation

- Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)
- Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic)
- Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (Vic)

### Evaluation

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