

Coffs Harbour Christian Community School



Immunisation (Student) Policy



Notes

Name of Policy: Immunisation Policy

Year of Policy: 2021

Commencement Date: 1 February 2021

Review Date: 1 February 2022

Related Documents:

- Privacy Policy
- Immunisation (Staff) Policy

NESA Reference:

Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual (*the RANGS Manual*), March 2020

Section: 3.6.2 Safe and Supportive Environment (Student Welfare)



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Policy Statement

Rationale

There are many infectious diseases that can affect children and young people, including:

- Chickenpox and shingles;
- Gastroenteritis;
- Mumps;
- Influenza
- Measles
- Rubella (German measles); and
- Whooping cough.

Immunisation is a proven and safe way to protect against diseases that cause serious illness and sometimes death. However, the protection provided by some childhood immunisations fades over time and needs to be boosted in adolescence. Secondary school students are at an age when a vaccine will be most effective and provide protection before possible exposure to a disease.

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease at the School, students who do not have proof of immunisation may have to stay at home. Particular arrangements will be worked out in consultation with our local public health unit.

Purpose

Coffs Harbour Christian Community School is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all of 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
- we inform the relevant public health unit of the occurrence of any notifiable diseases.

Scope

This policy applies to students enrolled at CHCCS. Staff vaccination is covered in the School's Immunisation (Staff) Policy in our WHS Program.



Definitions

CHCCS	Coffs Harbour Christian Community School
Immunisation	Immunisation describes the process whereby people are protected against illness caused by infection with micro-organisms (formally called pathogens).
Infectious Disease	<p>Infectious diseases are disorders caused by organisms — such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. Many organisms live in and on our bodies. They're normally harmless or even helpful. But under certain conditions, some organisms may cause disease.</p> <p>Some infectious diseases can be passed from person to person. Some are transmitted by insects or other animals. And you may get others by consuming contaminated food or water or being exposed to organisms in the environment.</p>
Vaccination	The term vaccine refers to the material used for immunisation, while vaccination refers to the act of giving a vaccine to a person.



Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- staff training and supervision
- maintenance of student medical records
- effective incident notification procedures
- effective communication procedures with the student's parents/guardians
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

NSW School Vaccination Program

NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in a school-based vaccination program.

Parent information kits are sent home to parents early in the school year. To consent to vaccination, parents are advised to read all the information provided, complete and sign the consent form and return it to their child's school.

Students in secondary schools in 2021 are being offered the following vaccines:

Vaccine	Student Age	Consumer Medical Information (CMI)	Number of doses
Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (dTpa)	Year 7	Boostrix	1 dose
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Year 7	Gardasil9	2 doses
Meningococcal ACWY	Year 10	Nimenrix	1 dose

The program involves the following procedures and/or information:

- Free vaccine is only available at school to students who have a signed consent form while they are in Year 7 (for dTpa or HPV vaccination) or Year 10 (for meningococcal ACWY vaccination).
- Students who miss vaccine doses due to absence on the day of the nurses' visit will be offered catch-up vaccination at subsequent school clinics. Where this is not possible, parents will be advised that free catch-up vaccine is available at their local GP.
- Parents who choose to wait for their child to be older before consenting to vaccination will be required to arrange for vaccination at their GP and may have to pay a consultation fee.
- Parents can withdraw consent at any time before vaccination takes place.
- Coverage rates for all vaccines offered to students in secondary schools from 2011 to 2018 are available.
- Information about the vaccinations is also available in 26 community languages.

Details can be accessed on the NSW Health website ([NSW School Vaccination Program 2021 - Immunisation programs](#)).



COVID-19

Where there is a case of COVID-19 in the school community, the School follows the systems and protocols the NSW Department of Education has established with NSW Health.

Incident Procedures

In the event a student becomes unwell at 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 a parent/guardian.

Notification of Infectious Diseases

The Principal is legally obligated to notify the NSW Ministry of Health and our local public health unit by phone as soon as possible after they are made aware that a student enrolled at the School is suffering from one of the following infectious diseases including:

- Diphtheria
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Measles
- Meningococcal (the most common form is type B)
- Mumps
- Rubella (German measles)
- Tetanus
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Polio.

Further information on disease notification requirements can be found on the NSW Health website.

Public Health Unit Contact Details

Port Macquarie Public Health Unit (Mid North Coast and Northern NSW LHD)

PO Box 126, Port Macquarie, 2444

Phone: (02) 6589 2120

After hours

Phone: 0439 882 752 Infectious Disease or

Phone: 0428 882 805 Environmental Health

Staff Responsibilities

Staff must:

- implement infection control practices to minimise the risk of exposure to infectious diseases for themselves and their students
- be aware of infectious diseases for which they have been vaccinated and keep their immunisation records up-to-date. Refer to our Immunisation (Staff) policy.

Further Information

For more information, refer to the NSW Health Infectious Diseases website

(<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/default.aspx>)