

Okaihau College Policy: Infectious Diseases

Rationale:

- a) To manage the risks associated with infectious diseases, including those:
Blood-borne eg. HIV/Aids, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C
- b) Other body fluid-borne eg. Hepatitis A, Gastroenteritis etc.

To ensure that people who have, or are thought to have, HIV/Aids or Hepatitis are protected from discrimination.

To ensure safe practices to protect all members of the college community when they come into contact with blood or body fluids.

Purposes:

- To maintain the confidentiality of students and staff with infectious conditions as it relates to the Privacy Act.
- To enable all students to access an education, free from discrimination.
- To promote a healthy environment by taking a responsible role in prevention.
- To provide an education programme whereby staff and students can access the necessary skills to minimise the spread of infectious diseases.
- To actively encourage a non-prejudicial and fearless approach to infectious issues.

Guidelines:

- The Principal needs to have the authority to communicate a student/staff member's infectious state, on a "need to know" basis, to persons with specific health and safety responsibilities eg. Statutory health authorities and staff responsible for administering first aid.
- The persons entrusted with this information regarding medical status must hold this in strictest confidence and under no circumstances may the information be passed on without the written consent of the person concerned.
- The Principal or the Board Chairperson are the only people authorised to speak to the media on behalf of the college with regard to publicity that may result from having a student/staff member with an infectious disease.
- The college requests that staff and students with infectious diseases of a self-limiting nature eg. Scabies, chickenpox, glandular fever etc. shall inform the appropriate college authority and remain at home until they are no longer contagious or are cleared by a medical practitioner.
- Where appropriate, access to counselling services, information about support groups and community assistance will be provided to families.
- All first aid kits will have written hygiene procedures and contain necessary equipment eg. Gloves.
- Antibacterial soap and hot water will be available within the college environment eg. Student Centre and staff toilets.
- All clean up of body fluids should be approached with the consideration that they are potentially infectious.
- Refer to procedure No. 409 Pandemic Alert.