



This policy follows the authority provided in the Government Department of Health (SA) Guidelines and has been developed with review by an external medical authority.

### The Hazard – Infectious Diseases

There are many infectious diseases that can affect children and young people, some common and others rare, including:

- Chickenpox and shingles
- Hepatitis A, B, C, D and E
- Measles
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Meningococcal
- Typhoid and paratyphoid
- Viral gastroenteritis
- Whooping cough (pertussis)
- Coronavirus (Covid 19)

More information about these diseases can be found on the [SA Health Website](#).

### Sacred Heart College's Policy

Sacred Heart College is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all 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 College 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.

### Parent/Guardian Responsibility

Parents/guardians are required to inform the College of any infectious illness or disease their child is diagnosed with, and not allow them to attend school while infectious.

### Immunisation Policy

The College encourages all staff and students to be vaccinated to protect themselves against the outbreak of vaccine preventable infectious diseases.

SA Health recommends that individuals who work with children, and all children, are immunised against:

- Influenza
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Whooping cough (pertussis)
- Chicken pox (varicella)
- Coronavirus (Covid 19)\*



Immunisation records are requested upon enrolment and stored in student medical records which are maintained in accordance with our procedure. Prospective students will not be excluded from attending school if they have not been immunised.

\*The Emergency Management (Education and Early Childhood Settings Vaccination) (COVID-19) Direction 2021 requires that, from 11 December 2021, all persons working in a South Australian Education setting must be fully vaccinated (being 2 doses) with a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved or recognised COVID-19 vaccine.

For clarity, 'work' in an Education setting includes full time, part time, casual, contract or on a voluntary basis.

### Infection Control Policy

The College has implemented precautionary measures to minimise chances of infection.

These include:

- good hygiene practices
- the use of protective equipment such as gloves
- safe handling of 'sharps'
- the use of sterile techniques.

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

### Incident Procedures

In the event a student becomes unwell at the College with an infectious disease, immediate medical treatment should be provided following the guidance of the College Nurse. The student should then be transferred to the care of their parent/guardian.

### Exclusion Periods

SA Health recommends that individuals with certain illnesses be excluded from school for a certain period of time. For example, individuals suffering from mumps should be excluded for at least five days after the onset of the swelling. For a full list of the exclusion periods, see the [SA Health Website](#).

### Notification of Infectious Diseases

Under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011, medical practitioners are required to notify SA Health of cases suspected of having or are diagnosed with notifiable conditions (for example notifiable communicable diseases), as soon as practicable but, in any event, within three days of suspecting or confirming a diagnosis of a notifiable condition.

Notifiable conditions that the College Health Care Centre/First Aid staff must report to SA Health as soon as practicable include:

- Diphtheria
- Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)
- Measles
- Meningococcal (the most common form is type B)
- Mumps
- Rubella (German measles)
- Tetanus
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Polio
- Coronavirus (Covid 19)

## 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 which they have been vaccinated against and keep their immunisation records up-to-date.

## Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

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

## Discipline for Breach of Policy

Where a staff member breaches this policy Sacred Heart College may take disciplinary action.

Policy Title	Infectious Diseases
Ratified by Executive and College Council	February 2022
Policy due for review	February 2025