



Mount Eden Normal

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Te Whare Akoranga o Maungawhau

POLICY

Communicable Diseases

Rationale

The School is required by National Achievement Guideline (“NAG”) 5 to:

- provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students;
- comply in full with any legislation currently in force or that may be developed to ensure the safety of students and employees.

Boards and early learning services are PCBUs (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking). They have a duty to manage workplace risks, and any potential or actual outbreaks of communicable disease such as influenza, measles and COVID-19, among other health and safety responsibilities outlined in the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

School principals (of State Schools) can preclude a student from attending if they believe on reasonable grounds may have a communicable disease (using Section 77 of the Education and Training Act 2020).

Purpose:

To ensure that reasonable and practicable steps are taken by the school to ensure the safety of staff, students, visitors and contractors on the School site by implementing clear guidelines and requirements in accordance with all relevant Health & Safety legislation and

advice from relevant health agencies.

Requirements:

- Any staff and students who are feeling ill should be advised not to attend school
- In the event that the Principal believes on reasonable grounds that a student or staff member may have a communicable disease (Section 77 Education and Training Act 2020). The student or staff member will be required to stay away from school for the infectious period of the specific disease or as otherwise directed by a doctor or public health service.
- In the event a person required to stay away from school doesn't comply, the Principal may ask the Medical Officer of Health at their local public health service for support, which could include a direction under the Health Act. The principal must inform the Medical Officer of Health, the affected staff member and/or the student's parents (in the case of a student) and the Board that they have taken this action.
- If a student or staff member has been precluded on suspicion of having a communicable disease, the Board must, as soon as is practicable, investigate the matter. After investigating, the Board should either cancel the preclusion or confirm that the student or staff member should stay precluded until the Board has received a certificate from a medical practitioner stating that the student or staff member is well enough to be back to school.
- If the principal is concerned that a student or staff member may have been exposed to a communicable disease, they should contact the health authorities for advice through the Healthline 0800 611 116
- Information on communicable diseases, including symptoms and required exclusionary periods should be sought from the Ministry of Health:
https://www.healthed.govt.nz/system/files/resource-files/HE1215_Infectious%20diseases%20card.pdf

Related Policies:

Health & Safety
Pandemic Plan
Privacy Act

Signed: Fleur Longley
Chairperson

Date: Nov 2020

Policy review details

Version / date: October 2020
Review cycle: Bi-annual
Date for next review: October 2022