



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL HEPATITIS, HIV/AIDS AND OTHER BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES PROCEDURE

At St Joseph's School we acknowledge that Catholic Education, centred on a daily encounter with Jesus, is part of a life-long process leading to a full and rewarding life.

St Joseph's School recognises that people with Hepatitis/HIV are often healthy and able to work and study.

The school is committed to providing a safe physical and emotional environment for students and staff. A positive approach is taken when dealing with the issues of Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and other serious communicable diseases.

PURPOSES

1. To provide a supportive environment that prevents unfair treatment of individuals who have contracted Hepatitis or HIV/AIDS.
2. Staff or students at any stage of Hepatitis or HIV/AIDS infection do not pose a health risk to other staff or students in a school setting because these are blood borne diseases. Care and personal protection are paramount in dealing with first aid situations where bleeding occurs.
3. Confidentiality shall be maintained but will be balanced against the need to provide a safe, physical and emotional environment for students and staff.
4. The issues of Hepatitis or HIV/AIDS are discussed and questions answered in an appropriate manner within the health programme.
5. This procedure is discussed by Staff and Board of Trustees annually to ensure a continuing awareness.

GUIDELINES FOR INFECTION CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS AND OTHER BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES

1. Before treating a student who is bleeding, make sure you cover any cuts or abrasions on yourself with a waterproof dressing.
2. Wear gloves for all procedures.
3. Don't delay treatment of a student who is bleeding, under any circumstances because gloves are not immediately available. Use an absorbent barrier such as a towel, paper towel, handkerchief etc. for an actively bleeding student.
4. Put used gloves, soiled dressings, sanitary towels, tissues etc. in a ziplock bag, and place it in the bin provided for secure disposal.
5. Wipe clean and then sterilise all surfaces and instruments contaminated with blood using disinfectant (one volume of household bleach to nine volumes of cold water).
6. Soak surfaces for 20 minutes and then wipe dry. Prepare a fresh solution immediately before you want to use it.
7. Wash hands thoroughly when you have finished. Hand washing is usually adequate for non-blood secretions, but the above precautions (i.e. gloves etc.) can also be used.
8. Make sure that first-aid kits include disposable gloves, disposable wipes or towels, plastic bags for contaminated waste, a skin disinfectant and a bleach solution (or hypochlorite solution/or granules), with instructions for use.

Reviewed: 2020

Next Review Date: 2023