



## 15.13 HIV/ Aids and other Blood borne Viruses procedures

### Guidelines

1. Every student is entitled to free education in any state school and it is unlawful for a school to discriminate against an HIV/AIDS student unless there is an unreasonable risk of harm to the student or to others.
2. The Health (Immunisation) Regulations 1995 require primary schools to maintain an Immunisation register showing the Immunisation status of children born from January 1995. The Immunisation schedule includes protection against Hepatitis B.
3. Children with HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis B infection should be able to participate in all activities in schools to the extent that their health permits. Should their health deteriorate, special programmes or inter-agency support (health professionals, or Group Special Education may be necessary so the children can remain in the school setting.
4. **In dealing with any injury, all children** should be treated as if they have a blood-borne virus. Staff must wear gloves.
5. **Children have a right to privacy.** It is recommended that parents/caregivers disclose information related to a child's infection status to the principal so that the school can work with the parents/caregivers to provide the best possible support and so staff who "need to know" are informed. (e.g. office staff who provide medical assistance).
6. Schools should not inform the parent body of a child's HIV Hepatitis B or other blood-borne virus status. The consequences of a breach of confidentiality can be extremely serious for families, leading to social isolation or even harassment.
7. Effective communication strategies should be developed to deal with any adverse publicity that can arise if it is known a student with HIV/AIDS is attending the school. Boards should:
  - a) invite health professionals to work with the school community;
  - b) provide opportunities for open discussion e.g. a parent meeting;
  - c) talk to students;
  - d) develop a strategy for dealing with publicity. See section 5 of these guidelines for one school's experience dealing with an HIV positive child in their community; and
  - e) provide opportunities for staff to participate in professional development in health and safety areas. This is a key component in the successful management of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne viruses in the school community.

## Appendix 4: Procedures for Dealing with Blood

- All children and adults in the school should be treated as potential carriers of a blood-borne disease and are therefore treated the same when there are body fluids present.
- Wear gloves for all procedures if they are available, **but** don't delay treatment of a child 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 child.
- It is also recommended that all staff cover their own open cuts and abrasions with a water-proof dressing.

### Disposal of soiled rubbish and clothing:

- Soiled gloves, dressings, paper towels, etc. to be placed in a container (e.g. a push pedal rubbish tin) lined with a plastic bag located in the sick bay and then disposed of. This bag should be changed daily.
- Soiled clothing should be placed in a plastic bag to take home for washing.

### Cleaning soiled surfaces:

- Household bleach (e.g. Janola, White Magic) is suitable to use as a disinfectant solution made up as one volume of bleach to nine volumes of cold water. Discard the solution after use.
- Mop up spills with paper towels or towels and then wipe the surface clean with soap and water. Following this, wipe the surface with disinfectant solution. (i.e. one volume of bleach to nine volumes of cold water). Leave the surface to dry (it should take about 10 minutes to dry - this is the time required to adequately disinfect a surface).
- If there are contaminated instruments clean them by washing or scrubbing with soap and water, then soak them in a 70-90% alcohol solution (e.g. methylated spirits) for 10minutes. Remove and rinse with water, dry and then store in a clean, dry container with a lid.
- For spills on carpets, mop up fresh spills with paper towels and then use soap and water to clean the residue.

The "Blood Kit" will be available in the sickbay and include.

Disposable Gloves	Disposable Wipes
Plastic Bags	Bleach
A Skin Disinfectant e.g. Savlon	Hand Sterilisation e.g. Germex
Absorbent towels, tissues and dressings	Tape
Water container to make/mix bleach solution	

5. The School Secretary is to be informed each time the kit has been used. So it can be replenished.

6. This procedure will be laminated and displayed in the sick bay.