

# GREEN BAY SCHOOL POLICIES

## NAG 5 Health & Safety

### 5.11 Communicable Diseases

#### RATIONALE

It is the responsibility of the Board to provide a healthy and safe working and learning environment. This includes protection for, and from, those carrying communicable diseases. Protection in this instance includes protection of an individual's right to privacy.

#### PURPOSE

1. To ensure that all members of the school community are protected as far as possible from infection.
2. To safeguard the privacy of all members of the school community.

#### GUIDELINES

1. Affected parents/caregivers will be advised of how to access relevant Ministry of Health and/or Ministry of Education information.
2. The management, staff and Board of Trustees will endeavour to keep themselves informed about communicable diseases which may directly affect the school community e.g. Hep A/B, measles, mumps, rubella, TB, whooping cough, chicken pox, influenza, nits, ringworm.
3. All staff will be made familiar with best practice procedures on infectious diseases and the handling of infectious materials at the beginning of each year, and/or for a new staff member as part of the induction process.
4. If a child's health is causing concern, staff will notify the principal, or the Associate Principal in the SENCO role, and where a communicable disease is suspected the Health Nurse will be notified.
5. Known health information relating to individual students or staff is subject to Privacy Act requirements and the School's Privacy Policy and procedures.
6. Appropriate protective clothing, including disposable gloves is to be made available to staff when handling any incident. All staff should have ready access to gloves when on playground duty (placed in first aid duty bags) or in other situations where there is a significant risk of exposure to infectious material.
7. That a student has, or is a carrier of, an infectious disease will not in itself be grounds for excluding that student. However, there may be situations, especially in the case of diseases with an acute infectious period (eg, SARS, meningococcal disease), when students suspected of exposure to, or infection by, such a disease, may, at the principal's discretion, be prevented from attending the school for the duration of the acute infectious period as specified in the Education Act 1989 Part II Section 19.
8. That a staff member has, or is a carrier of, an infectious disease will not in itself be grounds for terminating the employment of that staff member.
9. In the event of a serious outbreak e.g. Flu Pandemic, procedures will follow the Traumatic Incident Plan.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson