



Blood Spill & Needle Stick Guidelines

Introduction

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School ensures that all teaching, non-teaching staff & casual relief teachers use safe practices in the management of blood spills and other body fluids to minimise the risk of transmission of infectious diseases, including bacterial and viral infections.

Scope

These guidelines apply to all St Joseph's Catholic Primary School sites and to all teaching, non-teaching staff & casual relief teachers whilst performing duties on behalf of the school.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will ensure the implementation of the following guidelines to, where possible, prevent the transmission of infectious diseases as the result of a blood spill.

- » All teaching, non-teaching staff & casual relief teachers must be trained or have a good knowledge of standard infection control and first aid procedures;
- » The school will provide adequate first aid equipment including protective barriers such as:
 - Disposable gloves;
 - Antiseptics;
 - Disposable Expired Air Resuscitation face masks.
- » The school will provide adequate first aid facilities with:
 - Warm water;
 - Pump action antiseptic soap & hand wipes;
 - Disinfectant & detergents;
 - Rubber gloves & disposable latex gloves;
 - Paper towel;
 - Plastic sealable garbage bags;
 - Sharps containers.
- » All blood or body fluid spills will be attended to by a teaching or non-teaching staff member immediately;
- » Students who are bleeding must be escorted to the First Aid room where they will be treated, unless it is inappropriate to do so & adds risk of further injury;
- » The 'blood rule' in sports and recess/lunch times will be adhered to;
 - In the event of a student sustaining an injury where there is bleeding, they must be immediately escorted from the playground or sporting oval to the First Aid Room for attention.
- » All blood or body fluid spills will be completely cleaned according to the following standard infection control procedures. The attending staff or non-teaching staff member must:
 - Put on gloves;
 - Use paper towels to mop up the blood spill and dispose of them into a plastic bag;



- Wash area with warm water and detergent, rinse and dry;
 - Place gloves into plastic bag;
 - Seal bag and dispose of it in a rubbish bin;
 - Wash hands in warm soapy water and dry thoroughly;
 - If re-usable items/utensils are used, rinse them with cold water, wash them in warm water using disinfectant, rinse them in hot water and dry.
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- » All wounds are to be treated, dressed and covered.
 - » Students will not be allowed to remain in, or return to normal school activities with exposed blood or body fluids.
 - » The school will provide students with alternative clothing should their garments be infected with blood or body fluids.
 - » All parents & guardians will be immediately made aware of any incident where their child has been treated in the first aid room for bleeding or a loss of body fluids, or if their child has been involved with another bleeding child.
 - » The school will carry out routine inspections of the school grounds for dangerous objects such as discarded syringes, and will have a process in place for their removal and disposal.

Excursions, Camps, Sporting Events or Other 'Off-Site' Activities

Staff members responsible for organizing excursions, camps, sporting events or other 'off-site' activities must ensure that the First Aid Kits to be taken to the event have adequate provisions for dealing with a blood spill or loss of body fluid.

First Aid Kits taken on excursions, camps, sporting events or other 'off-site' activities as a minimum must contain:

- Hand wipes;
- Disinfectant wipes;
- Rubber gloves & disposable latex gloves;
- Sterile un-medicated wound dressings;
- A variety of bandages & tapes;
- Plastic sealable bags;
- Sharps containers.

Needles / Syringes

In the event that a needle or syringe is located on the St Joseph's Catholic Primary School site the school does maintain an approved disposal container for discarded needles, stored out of reach of students and visitors. If an approved disposal container is not available, a hard-wall container can be used. Glass bottles must not be used.



Upon discovering a needle or syringe on the school site staff members, non-teaching staff or casual relief teachers must report it to a member of the leadership team immediately. The area must be cordoned off to prevent students entering and the following actions must be taken.

The attending staff member must:

- » Put on single-use gloves;
- » Place the disposal container on the ground next to the syringe;
- » Using tongs, pick up the needle syringe from the middle keeping the sharp end away from themselves and place it in the disposal container, needle point down;
- » Note: Never try to recap a needle, even if the cap is also discarded;
- » Repeat the above mentioned steps for each individual needle or syringe;
- » Screw or close the lid of the disposal unit (sharps container);
- » Rinse the tongs under HOT water;
- » Remove gloves and place them in a plastic bag. Seal the bag and dispose of it in a rubbish bin;
- » Wash hands in warm soapy water and dry thoroughly;
- » Deliver the disposal unit (sharps container) to a member of the Leadership Team for appropriate disposal.

Needle Stick Injuries

In the unfortunate event that a staff member, non-teaching staff member, casual relief teacher, contractor, student, parent or visitor sustains a needle stick injury the following procedure must be strictly followed:

- » The injured area must be immediately flushed with flowing water;
- » Wash the affected area with warm soapy water, then pat dry;
- » Cover the wound with waterproof dressing;
- » Report the injury to a member of the Leadership team immediately;
- » The injured person must arrange to seek medical attention and advice from their doctor as soon as is reasonably practicable;
- » If a student sustains a needle stick injury, their parents or guardian must be contacted immediately, with a member of the Leadership Team accompanying the student to the nearest doctor/medical centre.

Note: Research indicates the risk of infection from needle stick injury is low and should not cause alarm.

Date of next review: 30/09/2020

St Joseph's



Crib Point