

## Rationale

At Burrendah Primary School, the health and well-being of the student is our highest priority. In order to maintain a safe learning environment for all our students, we adhere to the following procedures in the area of health and well-being.

## Illness at School

**If a child is ill, they should not be at school.** Illness spreads very quickly in a school environment. It is particularly important that if a child has experienced fever or diarrhoea/vomiting within the last 24 hours they **MUST NOT** attend school. Please advise the office should your child be diagnosed with a notifiable disease. Your doctor should inform you if this is the case.

In the case of onset of illness or injury during the school day, parents/guardians or the emergency contact will be phoned and must assume responsibility for their unwell child. **The need for an emergency contact is essential to avoid unnecessary distress to your children.** The school will act in the best interests of the child. If contact cannot be made with a parent/caregiver, this may require a visit to a local doctor or hospital. In all cases, the parent/care giver will be liable for expenses incurred. In the event of a serious injury or emergency, students may be placed in an ambulance and transported to hospital. Parents will be liable for costs incurred and are encouraged to belong to an ambulance fund.

## Nits and Head Lice

A “nit” is the actual “egg” maturing on the hair shaft. “Lice” (Louse) refers to the “live” creature moving about in the hair and on the scalp.

The Department of Health’s preferred treatment is the **10 Day Hair Conditioner Treatment**. However, advice on insecticide treatment is also provided in the Department’s Head Lice Fact Sheet, available free from the school office or at [www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/261/2/head\\_lice\\_fact\\_sheet.pm](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/261/2/head_lice_fact_sheet.pm)

Students who have been identified with live head lice will be sent home from class and excluded until treatment has commenced. Parents are asked to notify their class teacher immediately should they notice their child’s hair has been infected. The school endeavours to send out a note to all class members if a child in that class is identified as having lice.

## Infectious Diseases:

Attendance whilst suffering from the early symptoms of a disease, or when convalescing but still retaining infection, causes problems for others. The exclusion period as stated in health regulations is set out below for your information.

### Chicken Pox

Exclude from school. Where no medical certificate of recovery is available, re-admit when sufficiently recovered. (Contacts not excluded).

### Measles

Exclude from school. Where no medical certificate of recovery is available, re-admit 7 days from appearance of spots. (Contacts not excluded except those children who have not been immunised).

### Mumps

Exclude from school, re-admit on medical certificate of recovery. (Contacts not excluded).

### Ringworm

Exclude from school, re-admit on medical certificate stating that the child is no longer likely to convey infection. Infected area must be covered. (Contacts not excluded).

### Rubella (German Measles)

Exclude from school, re-admit on subsidence of symptoms—sore throat, rash. (Contacts not excluded).

## **Whooping Cough**

Exclude from school, re-admit on medical certificate of recovery. (Contacts not excluded)

## **Medication**

The Department of Education has specific guidelines controlling the administration of medication to students which are covered in a comprehensive policy available from the school office. Due to the legal requirements of this policy, parent awareness of and adherence to the policy and process is essential. The school must be notified in all instances of students bringing medication to school. This includes asthma prevention medication. Specific requirements should be discussed with the Principal, Associate Principal or class teacher.

## **Immunisation**

All children entering school should be fully immunised. Free clinics are advertised regularly in the newspapers. It is most important that your child has the appropriate injections and boosters and a written record is kept of them. This record needs to be produced when enrolling your child at school.

The Health Department advise that children should be immunised against measles before coming to school. Schools have been instructed to check this when children, are enrolled and to inform the Health Department of Pre-Primary and Year 1 children who are not immunised. If a case of measles is detected and if an outbreak is identified, all children in contact and under 12 years of age who have no documentary evidence of immunity to measles will be excluded for 13 days.