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Wadeley Academy

OPERATIONAL STANDARD/POLICY

Communicable Diseases Policy


	NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE	DATE
AUTHOR:	G Petzer	Consultant		
RECOMMENDED BY:	C Wadeley	Principal		
REVIEWED BY:	L Meyer	Deputy Principal		
REVIEWED BY:	E Potgieter	Teacher		
APPROVED BY:	Gregory Petzer	Director		
APPROVED BY:	C Wadeley	Director		

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1 Purpose

The aim of the policy is to outline the method in which Wadeley Academy will deal with Communicable Disease

2 Scope

This procedure applies to all Wadeley Academy staff, parents and students

3 Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations


Parent' means:

- The biological parent or guardian of a learner.
- The person legally entitled to custody of a learner; or
- The person who undertakes to fulfil the obligations of a person referred to in paragraphs and towards the learner's education at school.

Abbreviation	Explanation
WA	Wadeley Academy
PR	Principal
VPR	Vice Principal
CT	Class Teacher
P/S	Policy/Standard

4 Responsible for Implementation

HM, VHM and CT

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5 Policy

5.1 HIV and AIDS

INTRODUCTION

Acknowledging the seriousness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa, but accepting at the same time that there is a great deal that can be done to influence the course thereof, Wadeley Academy is committed to minimising the social, economic, developmental and educational consequences of AIDS on the school, its learners and its staff.


This policy seeks to contribute towards promoting effective prevention and care within the context of this school's environment, and it is premised on the acceptance that:

- It is impossible to know with certainty who has HIV/AIDS and who does not, given the nature of the condition and the capacity of medical testing.
- While there are no readily available statistics on the transmission of HIV in schools, there could be learners and/or staff with HIV/AIDS in our school.
- The above notwithstanding, current scientific evidence suggests that, provided universal precautions are adhered to, adequate wound management takes place and there is strict adherence to universal precautions under all circumstances in the school, the risk of HIV transmission during teaching, sport and play activities is insignificant.
- There is no risk of transmission from saliva, sweat, tears, urine, respiratory droplets, handshaking, swimming pool water, toilets, food or drinking water.
- HIV cannot be transmitted through day-to-day social contact.

NON-DISCRIMINATION, EQUALITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

In terms of national policy and the law:


- Learners with HIV/AIDS should lead as full a life as possible and not be denied the opportunity of receiving an education to the maximum of their capacity to benefit therefrom.
- Likewise, educators and non-educator employees with HIV/AIDS should lead as full a professional life as possible.
- There should be no unfair discrimination practised against any group, directly or indirectly, including the express indication that no learner, educator or non-educator staff member may be discriminated against with regard to admission or appointment on account of his or her HIV/AIDS status or perceived HIV/AIDS status.
- While no learner, educator or non-educator employee is compelled to disclose his or her HIV/AIDS status to the school, voluntary disclosure of HIV/AIDS status to the appropriate authority is encouraged.
- Legally, absolute confidentiality must be ensured during disclosure and after disclosure, and

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unfair discrimination as a result of disclosure will not be tolerated. The information disclosed may not be shared with anyone else.

CREATING A SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- Infection-control measures and adaptations must be universally applied and carried out in the school by all learners and employees, regardless of the known or unknown HIV status of individuals concerned.
- In accordance with the above, the school has adopted the following specific strategies and precautions to eliminate the risk of transmission of all blood-borne pathogens (BBP), including HIV:
 - Blood, especially in large spills such as from nosebleeds, and old blood or bloodstains, should be handled with extreme caution.
 - Skin exposed accidentally to blood must be washed immediately with soap and running water.
 - Skin that has been broken by biting or scratching must be washed, cleaned with antiseptic and covered with a waterproof dressing.
 - All bleeding wounds, sores, breaks in the skin, grazes and open skin lesions must be cleaned immediately with running water and/or other antiseptics and covered with non-porous or waterproof dressing and kept covered.
 - Blood splashes to the face should be flushed with running water for at least three minutes.
 - Disposable bags or sanitary bins must be made available to dispose of sanitary wear.
 - Latex gloves must be worn during the treatment or management of bleeding.
 - Any surface contaminated by body fluids must be cleaned with running water and bleach.
 - Blood-contaminated material must be sealed in a plastic bag and disposed of appropriately. (Tissues and toilet paper may readily be flushed down a toilet.)
 - First aid kits must be kept in strategic places around the school. These kits must be accessible at all times.
 - All classrooms / teaching areas must have a pair of latex / rubber gloves.
 - First aid kits must be kept in vehicles transporting learners on outings and tours.
 - Players with open or bleeding wounds must be removed from the sports field until they have been treated and the bleeding must be stopped before they return.
 - Blood stained clothing must be removed.

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EDUCATION ON HIV/AIDS

Learners at Wadeley Academy will be educated regularly on HIV within the Life Orientation and Life Science syllabi and from time to time with special events/programs.

COUNSELLING

Wadeley Academy will encourage learners infected with HIV/AIDS or who have infected family members to avail themselves of the services of the school counsellors.


5.2 Other illnesses

A pupil who has symptoms of an infectious or contagious disease (such as vomiting, diarrhea, temperature of 38 or greater, or rash of undetermined origin) shall be temporarily removed from school until the danger of transmitting the infection/disease has passed.

The student should be fever free for 24 hours prior to returning to school. Students with a rash may return to school with a written statement from the physician indicating that the student's diagnosis is not contagious. Students may return without a physician statement if the condition resolves.

The following is a list of the most common communicable diseases and the requirements:

- Amebiasis - exclude until treatment is initiated;
- Campylobacteriosis - exclude until after diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications;
- Chickenpox - exclude until the lesions become dry or if lesions are not vesicular, until 24 hours have passed with no new lesions occurring;
- Common cold - exclude until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications;
- Conjunctivitis, bacterial and/or viral - exclude until permission and/or permit is issued by a physician or local health authority or until symptom free;
- Fever - exclude until fever free for 24 hours without use of fever suppressing medications;
- Fifth disease (erythema infectiosum) - exclude until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications;
- Gastroenteritis - exclude until diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications;
- Giardiasis - exclude until diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications;
- Hepatitis A - exclude until one week after onset of illness;

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- Infections (wounds, skin, and soft tissue) - exclude until drainage from wounds or skin and soft tissue infections is contained and maintained in a clean dry bandage; restrict from situations that could result in the infected area becoming exposed, wet, soiled, or otherwise compromised;
- Infectious mononucleosis - exclude until physician decides or fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications;
- Influenza - exclude until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications;
- Measles (rubeola) - exclude until four days after rash onset or in the case of an outbreak, unimmunized children should also be excluded until at least two weeks after the onset of the last rash;
- Meningitis, bacterial - exclude until written permission and/or permit is issued by a physician or local health authority;
- Meningitis, viral - exclude until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications;
- Mumps - exclude until five days after the onset of swelling;
- Pertussis (whooping cough) - exclude until completion of five days of antibiotic therapy;
- Ringworm - none, if infected area can be completely covered by clothing or a bandage, otherwise exclude until treatment has begun
- Rubella (German measles) - exclude until seven days after rash onset or in the case of an outbreak, unimmunized children should be excluded until at least three weeks after the onset of the last rash;
- Salmonellosis - exclude until diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications;
- Scabies - According to the Centers for Disease Control, skin to skin contact should be avoided for 8 hours after treatment for scabies. For this reason, all students diagnosed with scabies will be excluded from school for 8 hours after treatment is completed.
- Shigellosis - exclude until diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications;
- Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever - exclude until 24 hours from time antibiotic treatment was begun and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications; and
- Tuberculosis, pulmonary - exclude until antibiotic treatment has begun and a physician's certificate or health permit obtained.
- Lice - If lice is discovered while the learner is at school they will be escorted to the sick by and parents will be required to fetch the learner who should not return to school until they are completely lice free