

## BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES (Hepatitis & HIV) POLICY

### Rationale

- Schools must:
  - protect the privacy of students who have a BBV
  - avoid any form of discrimination of students with a BBV
  - provide BBV prevention education as part of the health education program in line with the Victorian Curriculum.
- The Department of Health & Human Services advises as long as basic hygiene, safety, infection prevention and control and first aid procedures are followed:
  - risks of contracting blood born viruses are negligible
  - staff have a duty to provide first aid to students or other staff with a BBV in the classroom, physical education and sports settings and on school grounds

### Purpose

- To outline how Tarneit Rise Primary School will deal with blood-borne viruses (BBV). BBV's include Hepatitis B and C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- To ensure the school complies with DET policy and guidelines and the legislative requirements of the
  - Equal Opportunity Act 1995
  - Equal Opportunity (Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation) Act 2000

### Definition

Hepatitis is a term that describes inflammation of the liver. It may be caused by viruses, alcohol, drugs and other toxins, or less commonly by a breakdown in a person's immune system. Inflammation is a natural reaction of the body to injury and often causes swelling and tenderness.

### Implementation

- The BBV status of a student is a private matter between a student and his/her family doctor.
- When parents/carers report the BBV status to the Principal, the Principal will respect the student's confidentiality and keep the information from being accessible from others without parent/carer consent and/or student consent, if appropriate.  
Note: the above privacy principles also apply to school staff.
- In accordance with the requirements of the above Acts, the school will protect students from victimisation or discrimination based on BBV infection. Examples of discrimination include:
  - refusing to enrol the student
  - excluding the student from attendance
  - denying access to school programs or activities
  - failing to protect the student from harassment or victimisation
  - breaching confidentiality related to the BBV status
  - differential application of school rules
- The school will consult with the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit within the Department of Health with questions or concerns about disclosure or exclusion  
See: Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit
- The Principal will refer also to DET's publication Guidelines for Hepatitis 2013.
- Please refer also to the school's First Aid Policy, the Duty of Care Policy, Bleeding Students/Blood Spills Policy, Bullying & Harassment Policy and the Information Privacy Policy.

### Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET updates early & late July 2017).

<u>Ratification Date</u>	<u>Review Date</u>	<u>Policy Number</u>	<u>Version Number</u>	<u>Date Produced</u>
May 2018	2021	12	2	September 2017

Reference:  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/bloodvirus.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/bloodvirus.aspx)