



Managing Open Wounds and Blood Spills

Rationale:

Standard hygiene precautions and the correct management of blood spills and open wounds minimise the risks of transmission of infectious diseases including bacterial and viral infections.

Aims:

To provide a College environment that uses safe practices in response to blood spills and open wounds.

Implementation:

- Blood spills should be treated as if the blood is potentially infectious. All cuts and abrasions should be covered with a waterproof occlusive dressing at all times.
- All staff at our College will be trained in standard infection control procedures and first aid.
- Charts displaying standard infection controls will be displayed in appropriate places around the College.
- The College will provide adequate first aid equipment including protective barriers such as disposable gloves, antiseptics, and disposable Expired Air Resuscitation face masks.
- The College will provide an adequate first aid room with warm water, pump action antiseptic soap, disinfectant, detergents, rubber gloves, disposable latex gloves and paper towel, appropriate hazardous waste disposal bags and sharps dispensers.
- All blood or open wounds will be attended to by a staff member immediately.
- All children who are bleeding must be treated in the first aid room, unless inappropriate to do so.
- The 'blood rule' in sports and recess/lunch times will be adhered to.
- All blood or open wounds to be completely cleaned according to the following standard infection control procedures, which are deemed best practice:
 - Put on gloves.
 - Use paper towels to mop up the blood spill and dispose of them into an appropriate biohazard container.
 - Wash area with warm water and detergent, rinse and dry. Take care not to splash.
 - Remove gloves and place them in an appropriate biohazard container.
 - Seal bag and place in appropriate hazardous waste disposal bag (disposed of in accordance with regulations).
 - Wash hands in warm soapy water and rinse thoroughly before pat drying.
 - If re-usable items were used such as scissors or single-use tweezers, then an assessment must take place to consider how the item was used and determine the appropriate decontamination method. Example: If re-usable items are contaminated with blood or other body substances, they should be disposed of in a sharps or biohazard container. If they are not contaminated, they should be washed and dried. Single use items should be disposed of appropriately and replaced.
 - All wounds will be treated, dressed and covered.
- Children will not be allowed to remain in or return to normal activities with exposed blood / body fluids.
- The College will provide children with alternative clothing if their garments are infected with blood / body fluids.
- All parents will be made aware if their child has been treated in the first aid room, or if their child has been involved with another bleeding child.
- Dangerous objects such as discarded syringes will be disposed of in accordance to DET requirements.

References

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/supportplanning.aspx>

Related legislation

[Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)

[Victorian WorkCover Authority Code of Practice - First Aid in the Workplace 1995](#)

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

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Responsible for Review	Paul Looker- Assistant Principal and Nicole Topp- School Nurse
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