

Sickness Policy at Modbury Special School



Scope

At MSS we are committed to maintaining the wellbeing and health of all students and staff. Sickness is an inevitable event for all members of any school community however, given the nature of our environment where students and staff operate within close proximity for the entire school day, we need to be particularly aware of the potential for sickness to spread. Some of our staff and students are more susceptible the consequences of infection can be very serious. We understand that some of our students suffer chronic health and medical conditions which are identified through their health care plans and there are already processes in place for managing the effects of those conditions. If students present with suspected illness the following procedures are to be followed. MSS recognises that the staff working with children are well placed to advise on the wellness given their knowledge and experience in the class.

Rationale

1. Classroom staff identify that there are indications that a child is unwell. This might be because of obvious symptoms (e.g., Fever, constant coughing, sneezing, runny nose, vomiting or unusual loose bowel actions). It may also be that children present with unusual behaviours (e.g., tiredness or lack of energy which is out of character for that young person) or other unusual or unexplained symptoms.
2. Staff contact administration to contact families to either:
 - a) Inform the family of the situation and give an option, with or without a recommendation, for the child to be collected in the case of unusual behaviour. In most cases this may occur without the involvement of a member of the leadership team.
 - b) Collect the child from school in the case of vomiting or repeated unusual loose bowel actions (i.e., 2 loose bowel actions within an hour). **In this circumstance the family will be advised that the child will not be able to return to school until there has been at least 24 to 48 hours without recurrence of the symptoms (as per DfE guidelines). The student will also NOT be able to attend swimming for two weeks post gastric illness as per Health Department Guidelines.**
 - c) Where a child is presenting with other symptoms indicating illness (e.g., constant coughing, sneezing, constant nasal discharge) the family will be contacted to collect the child and keep them at home until the condition is either resolved or a certificate from a medical officer is provided indicating that the condition is not infectious. Students that have Covid-19 symptoms or are considered close contacts will need to follow current SA health guidelines outlined on the DfE Website: <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/> or visit SA Health for more information <https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au>
 - d) Collect the child from school as there is *strong* suspicion that the child is suffering a notifiable infectious condition (e.g., chicken pox, school sores). In this situation there are DfE mandated periods of exclusion that will apply depending on the outcome of a medical examination.For (c) and (d) a member of the leadership team will need to be involved **prior** to contact with the family.

Students with notifiable or contagious condition will require a clearance note from a doctor prior to being accepted back on site.

Exemptions

Exceptional circumstances

Note: 1. If a student requires laxatives to assist with bowel actions the student should not attend school until the laxative has had its effect.

2. If students are prescribed medicines that may affect their bowel actions, school staff must be notified by families. If the number of loose bowel movements exceeds two loose movements within the hour, parents will need to collect their child until the medication has passed through the child's system as per the previous mentioned section b).

Roles and responsibilities

Staff

MSS recognises that there may be issues related specifically to a child's disability which may account for certain symptom presentations. School leadership will take responsibility for negotiating with families under these circumstances.

Where there are repeated instances in relation to illness concerning a particular child, leadership will liaise with the family to address further medical interventions.

Parents

- To follow the policy in regard to the wellbeing of their child, the protection of other vulnerable students and the staff.

Communication and review

Policy created 2023, to be reviewed 2026

Questions, concerns, and further information

Please contact the school directly to discuss the possibility of an exemption if your child has exceptional circumstances as outlined in this policy.