



St Joseph's Catholic School

Queenstown

IMMUNISATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

RATIONALE

- It is the responsibility of Local Government Councils in Tasmania under the Public Health Act 1997 to make vaccination available to any resident for whom it is appropriate.
- Catholic schools generally support public health initiatives but do not wish to undertake the role of public health authorities.
- Catholic schools in general are comfortable providing a venue and conduit for vaccination programs.
- Vaccinations for pre- and current school children are not compulsory for enrolment.
- The Public Health Act 1997 requires Principals to maintain a record of all information relating to the vaccine immunisation status of all enrolled students and to follow certain protocols with regard to this.

GUIDELINES

- A Catholic school may elect to assist/not assist a local Council in the community vaccination programs. Assistance offered may be by one or both of the following:
 - By acting as a conduit for the exchange of information and/or
 - By providing a venue.
- Where it elects not to assist, the school should inform the local Council of that decision and its duration.
- Where a Catholic school elects to assist a local Council in its vaccination program, it may only do so by acting merely as a “**messenger**”. It may not act as an “**agent**” of the Council.
- Where a Catholic school elects to assist the local Council in its vaccination program by acting as a messenger, the following should be noted:
 - The school is simply the conduit of the message from the local Council.

- Any vaccination information distributed by the school should be provided by the Council, on Council letterhead and in the numbers required, so that nothing of this nature is printed by the school on school letterhead/newsletter on the Council's behalf.
- In an appropriate way, the school should ensure that all interested parties, including parents, know that the school accepts no responsibility for the vaccination program.
- The personal consent forms produced and required by the Council may be distributed and collected by the school.
- The vaccination procedure may take place on school property.
- Staff or school representatives are not to sign any statement relating to the vaccination program.
- School "nurses" should not administer or direct the administering of a vaccine.
- No records of vaccination are to be kept in the school on behalf of the local Council. Records that are required to be kept by the school under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1997 are to be collected from parents, not directly from the Council. This information in turn is not to be provided to the Council.
- A written consent from parents/guardians can be withdrawn at any time.
- No post-vaccine follow-up should be undertaken by the school, except for exchange of material between Council and parents.

*This policy and associated practices will be reviewed as part of
St Joseph's Catholic School review cycle.*

Implemented 1998
Reviewed September 2005; Reviewed February 2010