

Advice for Schools and Child Care Facilities on Appropriate Management for Occurrences of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

If a school or child care facility is located in an area in which the Director of Public Health has declared there to be an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease, the *Public Health Act 1997* requires the person in charge of the school or child care facility to exclude children who are not immunised against the disease until the outbreak is declared to be over. This advice will help schools and child care facilities to manage children in the event of an outbreak of one of the vaccine preventable diseases known to spread through close contact.

1. If a parent advises the school or child care facility that a student or child has a vaccine preventable disease or a communicable disease of concern:

- The school Principal or Director of a child care facility or a responsible person in family day care should immediately notify the Public and Environmental Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services by telephoning 03 6222 7724 or 1800 671 738 advising the child's name, contact phone number, age, grade and the disease; and
- Once notified, an authorised officer of the Department will make contact with the parent and with the child's Medical Practitioner. This will help the Department to determine if further action is necessary.
- It is important to ensure that no further action be taken by the school or child care facility until advised to do so by an officer from the Public and Environmental Health Service, Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit.

2. If the Director of Public Health, or their delegate declares by public notice that there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease in the school, child care facility or general community:

- It is the responsibility, under the *Public Health Act 1997*, of the school Principal or Director of a child care facility or other responsible person in family day care, to ensure that children not fully vaccinated against that disease are excluded for the duration of the outbreak. To this end the school or child care facility needs to keep up to date records of the immunisation status of each child:
- In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, the Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit will provide background information for parents and advice to the school or child care facility on how to manage the situation. The Director of Public Health will also make a declaration when the outbreak is over; and
- In the event that there are cases of vaccine preventable disease where exclusion from school or child care is not possible or is not appropriate, the Director of Public Health will provide advice for managing these situations.