

Policy

PURPOSE

To ensure safe practices in response to blood spills and students with open wounds.

To ensure Croydon Community School & OPTIONS complies with DET policy and guidelines and the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* and the Victorian WorkCover Authority Code of Practice - First Aid in the Workplace 1995.

SCOPE

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

Blood spills should be treated as if the blood is potentially infectious.

Teachers, staff and principals must be familiar with the school's first aid procedures related to blood spills and bleeding students.

POLICY

All staff members must be familiar with the school's first aid procedures related to blood spills and bleeding students.

Relevant staff will be trained in the first aid procedures.

The school will provide adequate first aid equipment including protective barriers such as disposable gloves, antiseptics, and disposable Expired Air Resuscitation face masks.

The school will provide an adequate first aid room with warm water, pump action antiseptic soap, disinfectant (e.g. Milton™), detergents, disposable gloves and paper towel, plastic sealable garbage bags and sharps and bio-hazards dispensers.

All blood or body fluid spills 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.

Bleeding Students

- avoid contact with the blood while comforting the student and moving them to safety if required
- put on single use waterproof gloves;
- flush the wound using warm water then wash with soap and warm water;
- pat dry the wound and apply a waterproof occlusive dressing ensuring the wound is covered completely
- if bleeding continues, apply additional pressure using either a hand or a firm bandage
- remove any blood stained linen, place in a leak-proof plastic bag until they can be cleaned by a commercial laundry or linen cleaning service;
- remove gloves and place them in an appropriate biohazard container;
- wash hands in warm soapy water, rinse and dry thoroughly;

Blood Spills (must be treated as if the blood is potentially infectious)

- put on single-use gloves and avoid direct contact with the blood spill

- use paper towels to mop up the blood spill and dispose of them into an appropriate biohazard container
- wash the area with warm water and detergent, rinse and dry and steam clean carpets if necessary
- take care not to splash
- remove gloves and place them in an appropriate biohazard container, which should be a part of the school first aid kit
- 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 biohazard container. If they are not contaminated, they should be washed and dried. Single use items should be disposed of appropriately and replaced. For further advice contact the Department's OHS Advisory Service on 1300 074 715.

Children will not be allowed to remain in, or return to normal school activities with exposed blood or body fluids. Where possible the school will provide children with alternative clothing should their garments be infected with blood or body fluids. If not they will be isolated and their parents/carers contacted for them to provide such clothing.

All parents/carers 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.

The school will carry out routine inspections of the school grounds for dangerous objects and will have a process in place for their removal and disposal.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Reference:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/blood.aspx

Please refer also to the school's:

- Care Arrangements For Ill Children Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Medical & First Aid Emergencies Policy
- Immunisation & Exclusion (Infectious Diseases) Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy, last updated 15th October, 2019 and will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change.