

Prevention of blood borne diseases



HIV/AIDS is one of the greatest problems to confront the world today.

Statistics show that Argentina has the highest rate of children that carry the HIV virus in Latin America.

In many countries in the developed world, whole school policies on HIV/AIDS and other blood borne illnesses are required by law. This document has been developed with the intention of ensuring that the whole community of St. George's College has an understanding of the school's policy with regard to HIV/AIDS and other blood borne diseases and that this is manifested in the practice of the school and commitment of the staff to its contents. The document is based on National Law 23.798 and the statement on AIDS/HIV in schools issued by a number of educational organizations in conjunction with OMS, UNESCO and OIT. (these documents are available in the 'Centro de Documentación y Asesoramiento Bibliográfico' situated at Mitre 1249, 5B, Capital Federal).

As recognized by The National Programme for the Fight Against AIDS, this is a problem that, as times goes by, is affecting younger and younger people. Taking this into account, the information, values and knowledge transmitted by schools with regard to HIV/AIDS is bound to have a huge influence on our society. The law and declarations referred to in the previous paragraph make it very clear that schools should be promoting a caring/non-discriminatory attitude towards HIV carriers.

This policy is designed to enable and ensure the following:

- The accommodation and protection of all students that live with the HIV virus within the school environment.
- The accommodation and protection of all members of staff that live with the HIV virus within the school environment.
- Confidentiality with regards to information related to those members of the school community or their families who are or have been carriers of the HIV virus.
- The development of an understanding within the school community of the nature of HIV/AIDS and other blood borne diseases and the prevention of transmission of such diseases.

Confidentiality:

The National Law 23.798 insists on confidentiality with regards to information related to those that live with the HIV virus. Members of the school community need to bear this in mind at all times.

The identity of any member of the school community that lives with the HIV virus should remain a matter of confidentiality at all times.

Information with regard to HIV/AIDS should not be disclosed in any medical forms/surveys etc. that are used within the school.

Information that is received by any member of the school community with regards to another member of the school community who is living with AIDS should be remain with that person and not be passed on. Similarly such information should not be included in any written document.

Institutional Procedures to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other blood borne illnesses:

- All members of school personnel have access to information regarding this area through compulsory workshops that are especially designed to provide for the different realities and needs of each area of the school. Parents are also invited to attend workshops dealing with similar themes.
- The objective of these workshops is to provide information for prevention and the education of the whole school community in order to avoid fear and prejudice.
- All members of the school community should be aware of the procedures outlined below in relation to dealing with injuries that involve blood.
- These procedures are clearly displayed in all classrooms and communal areas in the school.
- Classrooms or nearby common spaces are equipped with a 'kit' for dealing with blood injuries, including: a red bucket, latex gloves, absorbent tissues and red plastic bags. A similarly equipped First Aid kit is taken to games lessons and on all visits outside the school.

Students:

- Should never touch anybody else's blood.
- If someone hurts them self and/or is bleeding, they should immediately tell a teacher or an adult.
- In emergencies, they should take the latex gloves from the indicated place and follow the appropriate First Aid procedure.
- If they hurt themselves and are bleeding, they should try and stop the flow of blood themselves and tell a teacher or adult.

Staff:

- Without exception, latex gloves should be used before dealing with any injury involving blood or other bodily fluids.
- If the injury is minor, the injured party should be provided with material to stem the flow and provide a barrier. In these cases the student should always clean up and wash his/her hands afterwards.
- In case of more major injuries, the member of staff should try to stem the flow and advise the sanatorium or make arrangements for the injured party to be taken there.
- Bloodied clothes should be sealed in a bag and taken home.
- Bloodied areas should be cleaned up with bleach/absorbent sweep material as appropriate.
- Used gloves/cleaning material should be disposed of in the provided red bag and arrangements made for this to be taken away and the materials disposed of.
- Gloves and red bags should be immediately replaced with materials ordered from the Sanatorium

School AIDS/HIV Education Programme:

- The objective of the programme is to educate students, personnel and parents with respect to prevention and to develop an understanding and non-discriminatory approach to the issue. This programme extends from K3 to Polimodal 3. Each section organises its own programme of workshops.
- Parents are invited by letter and email to participate in workshops related to this area.

Re-vaccination:

- Quilmes Health Authority recommends that schools in DIPREGEF Region 4 inform parents that many pediatricians recommend that pre-adolescents (boys and girls aged 11-12 years) are revaccinated against Hepatitis B as they represent the group at greatest risk from this infection. They also recommend that the rubella vaccine should be given to those girls who have not already had the disease or have received the vaccination before.

- The School Doctor can provide information on any issue with regards to vaccination, especially Hepatitis B.