Rationale

Schools must:

* protect the privacy of students who have a BBV
* avoid any form of discrimination of students with a BBV
* provide BBV prevention education as part of the health education program in line with the Victorian Curriculum.

The Department of Health & Human Services advises, as long as basic hygiene, safety, infection prevention and control and first aid procedures are followed:

* risks of contracting blood born viruses are negligible
* staff have a duty to provide first aid to students or other staff with a BBV in the classroom, physical education and sports settings and on school grounds

Purpose

* To outline how Charles La Trobe College will deal with blood-borne viruses (BBV). BBV's include Hepatitis B and C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
* To ensure the school complies with DET policy and guidelines and the legislative requirements of the
  + - *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*
* *Equal Opportunity (Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation) Act 2000*

**Definition**

Hepatitis is a term that describes inflammation of the liver. It may be caused by viruses, alcohol, drugs and other toxins, or less commonly by a breakdown in a person’s immune system. Inflammation is a natural reaction of the body to injury and often causes swelling and tenderness.

Implementation

* The BBV status of a student is a private matter between a student and his/her family doctor.
* When parents/carers report the BBV status to the Principal, the Principal will respect the student’s confidentiality and keep the information from being accessible from others without parent/carer consent and/or student consent, if appropriate.

Note: the above privacy principles also apply to school staff.

* In accordance with the requirements of the above Acts, the school will protect students from victimisation or discrimination based on BBV infection. Examples of discrimination include:
* refusing to enrol the student
* excluding the student from attendance
* denying access to school programs or activities
* failing to protect the student from harassment or victimisation
* breaching confidentiality related to the BBV status
* differential application of school rules
* The school will consult with the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit within the Department of Health with questions or concerns about disclosure or exclusion. Refer to: [Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit](http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/contact-us.asp)
* The Principal will refer also to DET’s publication Guidelines for Hepatitis 2013
* Please refer also to the school’s *First Aid Policy,* the *Duty of Care Policy*, *Bleeding Students/Blood Spills Policy, Bullying & Harassment Policy* and the *Information Privacy Policy*.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET updates late April & early May 2017).

Ratification

This update was ratified by School Council on 15th February, 2018.

Reference:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/bloodvirus.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/bloodvirus.aspx)