



PINELANDS HIGH SCHOOL

POLICY ON HIV / AIDS

A. AIDS and HIV: Education

PHS undertakes to maintain an ongoing, thorough and comprehensive AIDS and HIV Education Programme:

- To equip learners in ensuring their own safety and the safety of others, and
- To develop in learners appropriate sensitivity and empathy for HIV carriers and AIDS sufferers.

Various methods will be used e.g. Sexuality Education modules, cross-curricular week programmes, assembly devotions, poster displays on notice boards, books available in the library, observation of World AIDS Day etc.

B. Learners who are HIV positive

1. All learners will be treated as if they are HIV positive. This includes:
 - (a) In practice e.g. gloves used in the treatment of injuries which involve bleeding, and
 - (b) In attitude i.e. all learners are treated without bias.
2. No learner will be refused admission to PHS on the grounds of being HIV positive.
3. No learner at PHS will be discriminated against in any way if it becomes known that he/she is HIV positive. Counselling support will be available to such learners.
4. No learner will be forced to declare whether he/she is HIV positive.
5. Any information regarding the HIV positive or negative status of a learner which is conveyed to the principal or an educator will be treated with confidentiality. Learners will be encouraged to seek support from outside agencies and relevant family members.
6. It is expected of learners who are HIV positive to exercise responsibility when dealing with all members of the school community in a conscious effort to avoid infecting anyone else. Confidentiality will not be observed where it becomes clear that the HIV positive learner's irresponsible actions might cause the infection of another person.

All of the principles and policies in this document apply to PHS educators. (Where appropriate replace the word 'learner' with 'educator'.)

Pinelands High School has nine Level 1 First Aiders in the learner body. These learners assist and support Ms J Baron (staff person responsible for First Aid and State Registered Nurse) in the management of injuries.

Universal precautions are applied in all instances.

HIV/AIDS awareness is taught in the Lifeskills programme.

Condoms are available at all times from the Admin Office and the majority of learners wishing to make use of this facility are happy to request same.

Learners requesting HIV testing are taken to a clinic (Spencer Road) as soon as possible by a school counsellor.