

Infectious Diseases Policy

National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety	
2.3	Each child is protected
2.3.1	Children are adequately supervised at all times
2.3.2	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect Children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury
2.3.3	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practices and implemented.

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW	
12	Meaning of serious incident
85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
88	Infectious diseases
89	First aid kits
97	Emergency and evacuation procedures
161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
174	Prescribed information to be notified to Regulatory Authority
176	Time to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority

Early Years Learning Framework

Learning Outcome 1	
1.1	Staffing arrangements enhance children's learning and development and ensure their safety and wellbeing

Aim

In early childhood, illness and disease spreads easily from one child to another, even when implementing the recommended hygiene and infection control practices. Our service is committed to preventing illness and reducing the likelihood of accidents through its risk management and effective hygiene practices.

Implementation

- The service will use the attached Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion to exclude children and educators and inform parents of exclusion and non-exclusion periods for infectious diseases.

We will minimise the spread of potential infectious diseases between children, other children and educators by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend the service and facilitating the prevention and effective management of acute illness in children.

- Notification of the child's parents or nominated contacts will occur immediately.
- Our service will comply with the relevant legislation which requires child care services to notify the local Public Health Unit of specific notifiable diseases (see heading Notification and Exclusion periods).
- Children might be brought to care with symptoms or signs of illness or while in care suddenly develop an illness that has not been diagnosed by a doctor, and that might be potentially infectious or potentially life-threatening for the child. Symptoms may not clearly fit those listed in exclusion diseases making it difficult for the service to decide whether to accept or exclude the child from the service. If we suspect a child may have an infectious disease, we will exclude the child until we receive a medical certificate stating the child is not contagious and is okay to attend the Service.
- Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care, and can make a child too ill to participate in normal activities. All children who are unwell should not attend the Service and we will ask parents of children who are unwell to collect the child from our Service or to make alternative arrangements for their child's care.

If an infectious disease arises at the service, we will respond to any symptoms in the following manner

- Isolate the child from other children.
- Ensure the child is comfortable and appropriately supervised by educators.
- Contact the child's parents or nominated emergency contact. If the child's parents are unavailable we will contact the next nominated individual. We will inform the contact of the child's condition and ask for a parent or other authorised individual to pick the child up as quickly as possible. Any individual picking the child up from the service must be approved by the child's parents and be able to show identification.
- Ensure all bedding, towels and clothing which has been used by the child is disinfected. These items will be washed separately and if possible air dried in the sun.
- Ensure all toys used by the child are disinfected.
- Ensure all eating utensils used by the child are separated and sterilised.
- Provide information in the child's home languages to the best of our ability.
- Inform all service families and educators of the presence of an infectious disease.
- Ensure confidentiality of any personal health related information obtained by the service and educators in relation to any child or their family.
- The Nominated Supervisor or another Responsible Person may require a child or staff member to provide a doctor's certificate on the first day back from an infectious illness stating they are okay to return to the Service.

Fevers

Unwell children include those with fevers. Fevers refer to temperatures above 38°C, and are usually a sign of infection (eg virus). When children develop a fever at the service, educators and staff will:

- contact parents and ask them to collect the child unless we have written advice from a medical practitioner that the fever is not caused by an infectious disease (eg teething). Babies less than 3 months old with fevers must always be collected by parents /authorised nominees who will be advised to take the child to a doctor
- administer first aid if required in line with service procedures. This may include calling an ambulance. Educators and staff will be especially vigilant caring for babies less than 3 months old with fevers
- if the child is distressed, bathe their face in lukewarm water and administer paracetamol if parents have given permission either over the phone
- offer water to the child and ensure they are not overdressed and their clothing is comfortable
- monitor the child's behaviour, alertness and any other symptoms that could indicate serious infection including rash, stiffness, vomiting, coughing or convulsions.

Notifications and Exclusion periods

As outlined in the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 (Vic):

- parents must advise educators as soon as possible if a child has an infectious diseases or the child has been in contact with a person infected with an infectious disease Reg 84(1). These diseases and the minimum periods of exclusion are listed in Schedule 7 and can be accessed on-line at www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Approved providers or nominated supervisors must inform the parents and the Secretary of the Department of Health within 24 hours of forming the belief that a child is suffering from pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella or meningococcal C Reg 84(2).
- Approved providers or nominated supervisors must not allow a child who has been infected or had contact with the diseases outlined in Schedule 7 to the Regulations to attend the service for the exclusion periods outlined in Schedule 7 Reg 85.

The diseases and exclusion periods outlined in the Schedule to the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 are similar to the National Guidelines detailed below under "Recommended Periods of Exclusion".

Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit

Apart from pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella or meningococcal C, infectious diseases only require notification from doctors and laboratories. A list of diseases can be found at

<http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/notifying.asp>

Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

Some Medical Conditions require exclusion from Child Care to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among staff and children.

This provides information on the recommended minimum exclusion periods for infections conditions and will assist medical practitioners, schools, preschools and child cares to meet the requirements of the Public Health Act 2005.

Condition	Exclusion of case (person with infection)	Exclusion of contacts (person exposed to the case with the infection)
Campylobacter Infection	Exclude until there has been no loose bowel motion and/or vomiting for a full 24 hours.	Not excluded
Candidiasis (Thrush)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Chickenpox (varicella)	Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least five days after the rash first appeared in non-immunised children, and less in immunised children.	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded. Exclude any pregnant woman who is, or is presumed to be susceptible.
Cold Sores (Herpes Simplex)	Not excluded if the person can maintain hygiene practices to minimise risk of transmission. If the person cannot comply with these practices (e.g. because they are too young), they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered with a dressing where possible.	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased	Not excluded
Cryptosporidium	Exclude until there has been no loose bowel motion and/or vomiting for a full 24 hours.	
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	Not excluded	Not excluded
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	Exclude until there has been no loose bowel motion and/or vomiting for a full 24 hours and Medical Certificate has been supplied by the appropriate Health Authority.	Not excluded
Fungal Infections of the skin or nails	Exclude until the day after starting	Not excluded

(e.g. ringworm, tinea)	appropriate antifungal treatment.	
Giardiasis	Exclude until there has been no loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Glandular fever (mononucleosis, Epstein-Barr virus [EBV] infection)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Haemophilus type B (Hib)	Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialised advice
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	Excluded until all blisters have dried and a Medical Clearance Certificate has been supplied by the appropriate Health Authority.	Not excluded
Head Lice	Not excluded if effective treatment begins before the next day at the education and care service	Not excluded
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness	Not excluded
Hepatitis B	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hepatitis C	Not excluded	Not excluded
Human Immuno-deficiency virus infection (HIV/AIDS)	Exclusion is not necessary unless the child has a secondary infection	Not excluded
Human parvovirus B19 (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hydatid disease	Not excluded	Not excluded

Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a water tight dressing.	Not excluded
Influenza and influenza like illnesses	Exclude until well	Not excluded
Listeriosis	Excluded until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a water tight dressing	Not excluded
Measles	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded
Molluscum contagiosum	Not excluded	Not excluded
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded
Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the onset coughing	Contact public health unit for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated contacts, or antibiotics
Pneumococcal disease	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Roseola	Not excluded	Not excluded
Ross River Virus	Not excluded	Not excluded
Rotavirus Infection	Exclude until there has been no loose bowel motion and/or vomiting for a full 24 hours and Medical Certificate has been supplied by the appropriate Health Authority.	Not excluded
Rubella (German Measles)	Exclude until the person has fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the	Not excluded

Salmonellosis	Exclude until there has been no loose bowel motion and/or vomiting for a full 24 hours and Medical Certificate has been supplied by the appropriate Health Authority.	Not excluded
Scabies	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment	Not excluded
Shigellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Streptococcal sort throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has receive antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well	Not excluded
Toxoplasmosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from the appropriate health authority	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about screening, antibiotics or specialist TB clinics.
Worms	Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring. Exclusion is not necessary if treatment has occurred.	Not excluded

Source

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
National Quality Standard
Department of Health and Aging, National Immunisation Program Schedule
Early Years Learning Framework
Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009
Staying Healthy in Childcare 5 th edition http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/ch43
Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and will be conducted by Management, Employees, Families and Interested Parties.

Last Reviewed	Next Review Date
19.07.16	19.07.18