

Document Name	Document Version Number	Review Date
Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy	1.0.2	March 2021
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25 September 2019	5403	Revised

Purpose

Our education and care service is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff and any other persons attending the service by:

- responding to the needs of the child or adult who presents with symptoms of an infectious disease or infestation while attending the service;
- complying with current exclusion schedules and guidelines set by the Department of Health; and providing up-to-date information and resources for families and staff regarding protection of all children from infectious diseases and blood-borne viruses, management of infestations and immunisation programs.

Scope

Approved Provider, Nominated supervisor, educators, casual staff and families

RELATED GUIDELINES, STANDARDS, FRAMEWORKS

National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety – Standards 2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2

National Quality Standard, Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities – Standard 6.1, 6.2

Definitions

The way that children interact with each other and with adults in education and care services means that diseases can quickly spread in a variety of ways. Whilst it is not possible to prevent the spread of all infections and diseases, minimising the risk is enhanced through:

- effective hand hygiene;
- exclusion of ill children, educators and other staff; and
- immunisation. (Staying Healthy; Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition 2015)

Policy Content

Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011 including:

Ensuring that where there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service, reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of that infectious disease (Regulation 88(1)). Ensuring that where there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service, a parent/guardian or authorised emergency contact of each child at the service is notified of the occurrence as soon as is practicable (Regulation 88(2)).

Ensuring that information from the Department of Health about the recommended minimum exclusion periods is displayed at the service, is available to all stakeholders and is adhered to in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease (as designated by the Department of Health – refer to Definitions).

Ensuring that the parent/guardian and Secretary are informed within 24 hours of becoming aware that an enrolled child is suffering from: a) Pertussis, or b) Poliomyelitis, or c) Measles, or d) Mumps, or e) Rubella, or f) Meningococcal C, or g) Diphtheria, or h) Haemophilus influenza Type b (Hib), or i) Tetanus

Ensuring that any directions provided by NSW Department of Health are followed regarding the possible exclusion of a child or educator who is not immunised against a vaccine preventable disease.

Notifying the Regulatory Authority within 24 hours of a serious incident including when a child becomes ill at the service or medical attention is sought while the child is attending the service.

Ensuring that appropriate and current information and resources are provided to staff and parents/guardians regarding the identification and management of infectious diseases, blood-borne viruses and infestations.

Keeping informed about current legislation, information, research and best practice.

Ensuring that any changes to the exclusion table or immunisation schedule are communicated to staff and parents/guardians in a timely manner.

Contacting the parents/guardians of a child suspected of suffering from an infectious or vaccine-preventable disease, and requesting the child be collected as soon as possible.

Notifying a parent/guardian or authorised emergency contact person when a symptom of an excludable infectious illness or disease has been observed.

Ensuring that a minimum of one staff with current approved first aid qualifications is in attendance and immediately available at all times the service is in operation.

Establishing good hygiene and infection control procedures, and ensuring that they are adhered to by everyone at the service.

Ensuring the exclusion requirements for infectious diseases are adhered to as per the recommended minimum exclusion periods (refer to Definitions), notifying the Approved Provider and parents/guardians of any outbreak of infectious disease at the service, and displaying this information in a prominent position.

Advising parents/guardians on enrolment that the recommended minimum exclusion periods will be observed in regard to the outbreak of any infectious diseases or infestations.

Advising the parents/guardians of a child who is not fully immunised on enrolment that they may be required to keep their child at home when an infectious disease is diagnosed at the service, dependent on directions from the NSW Department of Health.

Requesting that parents/guardians notify the service if their child has, or is suspected of having, an infectious disease or infestation.

Providing information and resources to families to assist in the identification and management of infectious diseases and infestations.

Maintaining confidentiality at all times.

Provide relevant sourced materials to families.

Ensuring that an "Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness" record is completed as soon as practicable or no later than 24 hours of the illness occurring.

Links to Policy

Dealing with Medical conditions

Dealing with infectious diseases

Administration of first aid

Providing a child safe environment

Incident Injury trauma and Illness

Links to Procedure

Dealing with infectious disease policy

Links to Forms

Incident, Injury, trauma and Illness

References

Immunisation Toolkit – www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Publications/immunisation-enrolment-toolkit.pdf

NSW Immunisation Schedule 1 July 2018 – www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schedule-changes.aspx

Immunisation - www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/enablers/immunisation-requirements/35396

Vaccination Q&A – www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/provider_qa.aspx

Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition July 2015 - www.nhmrc.gov.au

Exclusion period for infectious diseases table – www.nhmrc.gov.au
AIR-Immunisation History Statement - Australian Immunisation Register
Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Bill 2013; Public Health regulation 2012; Public Health Act 2010 - Parliament of NSW - www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bills/Pages/bill-details.aspx?pk=737
Public health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, no Play) Act, 2015 - [www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/51dea49770555ea6ca256da4001b90cd/57107BCF7DB93B04CA257EEB000B924A/\\$FILE/15-055aa%20authorised.pdf](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/51dea49770555ea6ca256da4001b90cd/57107BCF7DB93B04CA257EEB000B924A/$FILE/15-055aa%20authorised.pdf)

Responsibility

Nominated Supervisor

Document Author

Nominated Supervisor

Relevant Legislation

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167

Education and Care Services National Regulations: Regulations 78-80

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Public Health Regulation 2012

Public Health Act 2010

Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Bill 2013

Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code (FSANZ)

Associated Records

Nil