

Infectious Diseases Policy

Aim

Our centre aims to minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children, their families and Educators by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or who are too ill to attend the centre.

Implementation

To minimise the spread of infectious diseases between everyone associated with our centre, we will:

- Exclude a child or Educators from care and notify the local Public Health Unit and provide details of any known or suspected symptoms of the following vaccine preventable diseases:
 - Diphtheria.
 - Poliomyelitis.
 - German Measles.
 - Tetanus.
 - Measles.
 - Mumps.
 - Whooping Cough.

- Exclude a child or Educators with any of the following symptoms:
 - Vomiting.
 - Rash, especially if it's purple in colour or haemorrhaging spots (possibly meningococcal) or blistering (possibly staphylococcal).
 - Stiffness of the neck.
 - Aversion to light (photophobia).
 - Drowsiness.
 - An unusual state of consciousness or unusual behaviour.
 - Convulsion of epileptic seizures.
 - Severe pain anywhere in the body.
 - Hives.
 - Asthma, wheezing or any difficulty breathing.

- Exclude a child or Educators if it is suspected they have any of the following symptoms which may indicate they have an infectious illness:
 - Diarrhoea.
 - Generalised rash.
 - Enlarged or tender lymph glands.
 - Severe cough with fever.
 - Head lice, nits, scabies, ringworm, impetigo or untreated mouth ulcers.
 - Mouth ulcers due to Herpes Simplex Virus or Coxsackie Virus.
 - Infection or yellow/green discharge from the eyes or ears.
 - Excessive amount of yellow/green discharged from the nose.
 - If any other infectious disease is suspected.

- Exclude children, Educators or any other person related to the centre who have infectious disease other than those listed above.
- Ensure all Educators and other people working at the centre conform to this policy.
- If a child develops symptoms while at the centre we will:
 - Isolate the child from other children.
 - Make sure the child is comfortable and supervised by Education
 - Contact the child's nominated family. If this family is unavailable, we will contact the next nominated family person. We will inform you of the child's condition and ask for the family to pick him/her up as quickly as possible.

- Ensure all linen which has been used by the child is disinfected. These items will be washed separately and if possible aired dry 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 home languages to the best of our ability.
- Inform all centre families of the presence of an infectious disease.
- Ensure confidentiality of any personal or health-related information obtained by the centre Educators in related to any centre family.

If a child or Educators has been unable to attend the centre because of an infectious illness the person must provide a doctor's certificate which specifically states the child/Educators is OK to return to the centre.

Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

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Below is a chart highlighting the minimum periods of exclusion from a centre environment for people with infectious diseases.

Note: The NHMRC recommends that children who are physically unwell should be excluded from attending school, pre-school and child care centres. This list should be read in conjunction with the National Health and Medical Research Council's publication:

- National Health and Medical Research Council. June, 2001. Staying Healthy in Child Care. 3rd edition, Canberra, AGPS. Available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/>

Legislative Requirements

- Education and Care services National Law Act 2011
- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority
- Health Act 1993
- Occupational Health & Safety Act 1989,

Who is affected by this policy?

- Children and Families
- Educators and Management
- Visitors and Volunteers

Sources and further reading:

- Education and Care services National Law Act 2011
- Health & Safety in Children's Centres Model Policies & practices 2nd edition revised
- Staying Healthy in Childcare 5th edition 2013

Review: This policy will be reviewed annually. The review will be conducted by:

- *Management and Employees*
- *Interested Parties (Including Families, NSW Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate Department of Education and communities, ACECQA etc.*

Recommended minimum exclusion periods

ADAPTED FROM STAYING HEALTHY | 5TH EDITION | 2013

Condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts ^a
Campylobacter infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^a	Not excluded
Candidiasis (thrush)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	Not excluded	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis	Not excluded
Cryptosporidium	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^a	Not excluded
Diarrhoea (No organism identified)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^a	Not excluded
Fungal infections of the skin or nails (e.g. ringworm, tinea)	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment	Not excluded
Giardiasis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^a	Not excluded
Glandular fever (mononucleosis, Epstein Barr virus (EBV) infection)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried	Not excluded
Haemophilus influenzae 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 specialist advice
Head lice (pediculosis)	Not excluded if effective treatment begins before the next day at the education and care service. The child does not need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected	Not excluded
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received and until at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice	Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group
Hepatitis B	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hepatitis C	Not excluded	Not excluded
Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)	Not excluded if the person can maintain hygiene practices to minimise the 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
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Not excluded. If the person is severely immune compromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses	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 antibiotic treatment has started. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing	Not excluded
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Listeriosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
Measles	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash	Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded For non-immunised contacts, contact a public health unit for specialist advice. All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the appearance of the rash in the last case
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about antibiotics and/or vaccination for people who were in the same room as the case
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 of coughing	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated and incompletely 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 not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours ^a	Not excluded
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
Salmonellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^a	Not excluded
Scabies	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate treatment	Not excluded
Shigellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^a	Not excluded
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has received 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
Varicella (chickenpox)	Exclude until all blisters have dried—this is usually at least 5 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
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^a	Not excluded
Worms	Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring. Exclusion is not necessary if treatment has occurred	Not excluded