



Exclusion and Infectious Diseases and Management of Ill Children Policy

AIM

Exclusion of infectious children and staff reduces the risk of infections being transferred to others and thus supports the centre's goal of minimising cross-infection. We aim to effectively manage any outbreaks of infectious diseases within the centre and to limit the risk of cross-infection, allowing us to provide a safe and healthy environment for all children and staff

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS/SOURCES

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:

86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness records
88	Infectious diseases
92	Medication record
93	Administration of medication
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law 2010:

167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazard
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National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented

Sources:

- Hunter New England Population Health
- NSW Health Department
- Staying Healthy in Childcare – 6th Edition 2024
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) www.nhmrc.gov.au
- CELA – Dealing with infectious diseases policy
- ACECQA – Dealing with infectious diseases policy guidelines
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

IMPLEMENTATION

- As a part of the enrolment procedure parents will be given a copy of this policy and updates to this policy will be emailed to families and displayed in the foyer
- Ensure effective hygiene practices are implemented
- Ensure exclusion of ill children, educators and staff

If a child is ill while at the Centre, the following will occur:

- If a staff member feels the child is showing symptoms of being unwell they will notify the Nominated Supervisor or Responsible Person. A decision will then be made as to the management of the child.
- All educators have the responsibility of ensuring the health and safety of all children attending the service and therefore any child who is deemed unfit to attend will be required to be collected from the service within the hour. If parents/guardians are unable to be contacted emergency contacts who are authorised to collect the child as written on the enrolment form will be contacted to collect the child.
- If the child presents with a suspicious rash or other unknown marking or blisters while at the service a parent/guardian will be contacted. Staff will request that the child be excluded until a clearance letter from a medical practitioner is shown stating that the rash, unusual marking or blister is not contagious, and the child is fit to attend the service.
- If a child has two loose bowel movements at the Centre their parents/guardian or emergency contacts will be contacted. In the case of a gastroenteritis outbreak the parents/guardian or emergency contacts will be contacted after one loose bowel movement and the child MUST be collected within the hour.
- If a child vomits while at the service their parents/guardian or emergency contacts will be contacted and the child MUST be collected within one hour
- If a child has a temperature of 38 degrees while at the service the parent/guardian or emergency contacts will be contacted and the child MUST be collected from the service within one hour

- Panadol can only be administered by staff if a child's temperature reaches 38 degrees or more. Parents/guardian will be contacted and verbal consent from parents is requested BEFORE Panadol will be administered, if possible, otherwise signed permission on the enrolment is sufficient authorisation. The child MUST be collected from our centre within the hour. This will be recorded on an incident, injury trauma and illness form and parents will be requested to sign.
- The centre will follow the COVID safety plan when there is an outbreak of covid 19 (Recommended by NSW Health and Department of Education- Early Education Department, Safe Work NSW and WH&S Law)
- Any illness while at the centre will be documented on an incident, injury, trauma and illness form and given to the parent if requested and kept on file.
- At the end of every month children's illnesses will be tallied and the centre's procedures and practices evaluated for their effectiveness.

Infectious diseases and illnesses

- Children/staff with infectious diseases and illnesses must be excluded for the period as determined by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Recommended Minimum Exclusion Periods for Infectious Conditions for Schools, Preschools and Child Care Centre's chart attached.
- Management may exclude from the centre any person with a confirmed infectious disease or as directed by the Population Health Unit in relation to exclusion after the onset of symptoms.
- Under the Public Health Act management will contact the Population Health Unit (02 4924 6499) when any case of the following occurs:
 - Pertussis (whooping cough)
 - Poliomyelitis
 - Measles
 - Mumps
 - Rubella
 - Meningococcal B&C
 - Diphtheria
 - Haemophilus influenza Type B
 - Tetanus
- A medical certificate clearance before returning to the centre is required by any child or adult having the following: diphtheria, hepatitis A, tuberculosis, typhoid, parathyroid and any other infectious diseases where clearances are deemed necessary at the discretion of the Nominated Supervisor (with reference to the Staying Healthy in Childcare recommended exclusion periods, pp 75-92). The centre will notify parents upon notification of the disease if a clearance certificate is required prior to returning their child to care.

- All families will be notified by way of email and displays in the foyer and/or classrooms when an infectious disease is confirmed in the centre.
- Where serious infections or major outbreaks occur, management will seek the advice of the Population Health Unit to seek advice for information on infection control and protocols. This advice will be communicated to families.
- Children and staff who are unimmunised will be excluded in the case of an outbreak if exclusion is recommended by the Public Health Unit. Exclusion may occur even if the unimmunised child is well (see Immunisation Policy for further information).

If a child has been ill prior to attending the service:

Illness/Symptom/Medication	Exclusion Period
First dose of antibiotics	24 hours before attending the service to ensure there are no adverse reactions to the medication and that the child is no longer contagious
Diarrhea and/or vomiting	Child must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to the centre If there is an outbreak and Public Health have been notified children must be symptom free for 48 hours
High temperature	Child must be temperature free over night to be able to return to the service
Panadol, Nurofen and cough mixture	Child must be free from these medications in the 12 hours prior to attending the service
Immunisations	Child cannot return to the centre until 24 hours after receiving vaccination

In the case of serious illness (asthma/anaphylaxis/allergies)

- All key educators are to hold recognised first aid, asthma and anaphylaxis training.
- Children who have asthma or anaphylaxis will be required to have an individual management plan on file. These plans will be made available and easily accessible to educators.
- Individual asthma and anaphylaxis management plans will be updated at least every 12 months
- An ambulance and parents/guardian will be called for children who suffer a severe allergic reaction or asthma attack and management plans will be followed.

The Approved Provider will:

- Ensure that any direction provided by Public Health Unit are followed regarding the possible exclusion of a child or educator who is not immunised against vaccine preventable diseases
- Ensuring any changes to the exclusion table or immunisation schedule are communicated to staff and families in a timely manner

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Establish good hygiene and infection control procedures, and ensuring that they are adhered to by everyone at the service
- Request that parents/guardians notify the service if their child has or is suspected of having, an infectious diseases or infestations
- Ensure exclusion periods are adhered and notify the Approved Provider and parents/guardians of any outbreaks of infectious diseases and display information in a prominent position
- Maintain confidentiality at all times
- Ensure that an incident, injury, trauma and illness record is completed as soon as practicable or no later than 24 hours of the illness occurring

Educators will:

- Ensure that any child that they suspect of having an infectious illness is responded to and their health and emotional needs are supported
- Implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when tending to ill children
- Ensure families are aware they need to collect their child as soon as possible to ensure the child's comfort
- Observe and monitor sign and symptoms of children who may appear unwell, and notifying the Nominated supervisor or Responsible Person
- Maintain confidentiality at all times

Families will:

- Provide immunisation records upon enrolment and keep records updated
- Keep their children at home if they are unwell or have an excludable disease
- Inform the service if their child unwell or had an infectious disease or has been in contact with someone with an infectious disease

REVIEW

This policy is the intellectual property of Maryland Care and Early Education Centre and is created with consultation of staff and families attending the service. This policy will be reviewed annually. This policy is available in other languages upon request.

Last reviewed: June 2024

Next review: June 2025