

Dealing with Infectious Diseases

POLICY STATEMENT

Our Service will aim to provide a safe and hygienic environment that will promote the health and well being of our children (*"MyTime, Our Place"* Outcome 3). We will take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through the implementation of procedures that are consistent with guidelines of State Health Authorities.

Children with infectious diseases will be excluded from the service for the period recommended by the Department of Health.

Where there is an outbreak of an infectious disease each enrolled child's parent/emergency contact will be notified within 24 hours under ordinary circumstances. The service will take care when issuing the notification to ensure it is not done in a manner that is prejudicial or names any particular child (*"My Time, Our Place"* Outcome 1).

PROCEDURE:

a) Prevention

- Universal precautions will be consistently applied across service practices to ensure prevention of the spread of infections is effective.
- A regularly updated copy of the Department of Health guidelines on infectious diseases will be kept at the service for reference by educators, management and families.
- (<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/Infectious/a-z.asp>).
- If a child is showing symptoms of an infectious disease whilst at home, families are not permitted to bring the child to the service. Children who appear unwell when being signed in by their family will not be permitted to stay at the service.
- Hand washing will be practised by all educators and children upon entering the service, before preparing or eating food and after all dirty tasks such as toileting, cleaning up any items, wiping a nose, before and after administering first aid, playing outside or handling an animal. In addition educators will wash their hands before leaving the service.
- The service will be cleaned daily and rosters maintained as evidence of the cleaning tasks being undertaken.
- All toilet facilities will have access to a basin or sink with running hot and cold water and soap and paper towel for washing and drying hands.
- Women and girls will have access to proper feminine hygiene disposal.
- Soap and paper towel will also be available in the kitchen area.
- All toilets, hand basins and kitchen facilities used by the service will be cleaned and sanitised daily. General surfaces will be cleaned with detergent after each activity and at the end of the day and all contaminated surfaces will be disinfected.
- Toys will be washed, cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis with material items such as dress ups and cushion covers laundered as required but a minimum of quarterly.

- Educators will maintain and model appropriate hygiene practices and encourage the children to adopt effective hygiene practices. As part of children taking increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing, educators will acknowledge children who are modelling hygiene practices.
- Informal education in proper hygiene practices will be conducted on a regular basis, either individually or as a group through conversations, planned experiences, inclusion in service routines and reminders. Health and hygiene practices will be highlighted to parents, and where appropriate information sheets or posters will be used by educators to support these practices.
- Educators will aim to provide a non-judgmental approach to differences in hygiene practices and standards between families in order to support children's developing sense of identity. Where practices differ to standards expected in the service, educators are to remind children that these are practices to be followed in the service but they may be different for them at home.
- All educators will be advised upon appointment to the position to maintain their immunity to common childhood diseases, tetanus and Hepatitis B through immunisation with their local health professional

b) **Management of Infectious Diseases**

- Children and educators with infectious diseases will be excluded from the service for the period recommended by the Department of Health.
- Where there is an outbreak of an infectious disease, each enrolled child's family/emergency contact will be notified within 24 hours via a notice, email or phone call under ordinary circumstances. The service will maintain confidentiality when issuing the notification and ensure it is not prejudicial or identify any children.
- In the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease at the service or school attended by children at service, parents of children not immunised will be required to stay at home for the duration of the outbreak for their own protection.
- If a child develops symptoms of a possible infectious disease whilst at the service, their family will be contacted to take the child home. Where they are not available, emergency contacts will be called to ensure the child is removed from the service promptly.
- All educators dealing with open sores, cuts and bodily fluids shall wear disposable gloves and practice universal precautions.
- Educators with cuts, open wounds or skin diseases such as dermatitis should cover their wounds and wear disposable gloves.
- Disposable gloves will be properly and safely discarded and educators are to wash their hands after doing so.
- If a child has an open wound it will be covered with a waterproof dressing and securely attached.
- If bodily fluids or blood gets on the skin but there is no cut or puncture, wash away with hot soapy water.
- In the event of exposure through cuts or chapped skin, promptly wash away the fluid, encourage bleeding and wash in cold or tepid soapy water.
- In the event of exposure to the mouth, promptly spit it out and rinse mouth with water several times.
- In the event of exposure to the eyes, promptly rinse gently with cold or tepid tap water or saline solution.
- In the event of having to perform CPR, disposable sterile mouth masks are to be used, or if unavailable a piece of cloth. The staff person in charge of the first aid kit will ensure that a mask is available in the kit at all times.
- Any exposure should be reported to the Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor and management to ensure proper follow up procedures occur.

- When assisting children with toileting and nappy changing, educators will ensure that they wear gloves and wash their hands afterwards. They will also encourage the child to wash their hands.
- Educators will consider the resources they are using when assisting school age children with toileting to ensure they are age appropriate and ensure privacy for the child and ease of use.
- Any soiled clothing shall be handled using disposable gloves and be placed in a sealed plastic bag for the parents to take home for laundering. The service will never rinse soiled clothing.
- Any blood or bodily fluid spills will be cleaned up immediately, using gloves and fully disinfect the area. Cloths used in cleaning will be wrapped in plastic bags and properly disposed of according to current infection control guidelines.
- The Public Health Unit will be notified if any child or educator contracts a vaccine-preventable disease.
- Payment of fees will be required for children during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, unless other arrangements discussed and agreed to by management have been made.
- The Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor will follow the recommendations as outlined in the Health Department document.
- The decision to exclude or re-admit a child or educator will be the responsibility of the Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor and will be based on the child's symptoms, medical advice and Department of Health guidelines for children who have an infectious disease or who have been exposed to an infectious disease.
- The service has the right to refuse access if there are valid concerns about the child's health.
- Children and educators with diarrhoea will be excluded for 24 hours after the symptoms have disappeared or after a normal stool.
- A doctor's clearance certificate will be required for all infectious diseases such as measles, mumps diphtheria, hepatitis A, polio, tuberculosis, typhoid and paratyphoid before returning to the service.

c) Management of HIV/AIDS/Hep B and C

- Under the Federal Disability Act and the Equal Opportunity Act, there will be no discrimination based on a child's/family/educators HIV status.
- A child with AIDS shall be treated as any other child and will have the same level of physical contact with educators as other children in the centre.
- Where educators are informed of a child, family member or another educator who has HIV/AIDS or Hep B or C, this information will remain confidential at all times. The service has no obligation to advise other families attending the service of a child's or educators HIV status.
- Proper safe and hygienic practices will be followed at all times and implementation of procedures to prevent cross infection as identified in this policy will be consistently implemented.
- Educators and families will be encouraged to participate in AIDS and Hepatitis education.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Education and Care Services National Law & Regulations	National Quality Standards & Elements	Links to other Service Policies	Other Documentation/ Evidence
S167 R85, 86, 87, 88, 90, 91, 92, 93, 95, 96	Standard 2.1 Element 2.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enrolment and Orientation• Providing a Child Safe Environment• Incident, Injury, Illness and Trauma• Medical Conditions and Administration of Medication• Confidentiality Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disability Discrimination Act 1975• NSW Anti-discrimination Act 1977• Work Health and Safety Act 2011• Staying Healthy in Child Care (5th Edition)• NSW Dept. of Health guidelines• Parent Handbook• Staff Handbook

ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:

Approval Date: April 2019

Date for Review: April 2022