Infectious Diseases Policy

To be read with -
Immunisation and Disease Prevention Policy

NQS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>QA2</th>
<th>2.1.1</th>
<th>Each child’s health needs are supported.</th>
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<td></td>
<td>2.1.4</td>
<td>Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.</td>
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National Regulations

<table>
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<th>Regs</th>
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<th>Health, hygiene and safe food practices</th>
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<td>Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures</td>
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<td>Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness</td>
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Aim

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting individuals against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

Related Policies

Educator and Management Policy
Enrolment Policy
Food Nutrition and Beverage Policy
Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Policy
Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Immunisation Policy
Medical Conditions Policy
Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
Who is affected by this policy?
Child
Parents
Family
Educators
Management
Visitors
Volunteers

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.
- All appropriate notifications to the local Public Health Unit are available under the ‘Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit’ and must occur within 24 hours. The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for notifying the local Public Health Unit.
- 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. Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care, and many non-exclusion diseases can make a child too ill to participate in normal care activities.

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 are washed. These items will be washed separately and if possible air dried in the sun.
- Ensure all toys used by the child are washed.
- 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.
- If a child or educator has been unable to attend the Service because of an infectious illness the individual must provide a doctors certificate which specifically states the child/staff member is ok to return to the Service.

**Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit**

Infectious Diseases only require notification from doctors and laboratories. A list of diseases can be found on following form –


Further information is available from:


The Guidelines contain recommended exclusion periods for some diseases.

**Immunisation and Educators**

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend that educators should be immunised against -

- Hepatitis A.
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR).

Educators born during or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have antibodies for rubella, require vaccination.

- Varicella if they have not previously been infected with chickenpox.
- Pertussis. An adult booster dose is especially important for those educators caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated.
• Hepatitis B if caring for unimmunised children with intellectual disabilities (although the risk is low).

Our service will:

• regularly advise educators and staff that some infectious diseases may injure an unborn child if the mother is infected while pregnant through the Staying Healthy in Childcare publication. These infections include chickenpox, cytomegalovirus and rubella (German measles).

• encourage all non-immune staff to be vaccinated.

• advise pregnant educators and staff to review the Staying Healthy in Childcare publication and consult their medical practitioner to consider the risks of continuing to work at the service.

• ensure pregnant educators and staff follow good infection control and hygiene procedures.

• consider restricting pregnant educators and staff to working only with toilet trained children.
Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

Consult:


Sources
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
National Quality Standard
Department of Health and Aging, National Immunisation Program Schedule
NHMRC. Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing infectious diseases in child care 4th edition
Health Act 1911
Reducing the Risk of Infectious Diseases in Child Care Workplaces: Worksafe Western Australia Commission

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

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

Last reviewed: September 2013        Date for next review: September 2015