



2.05 Control of Infectious Diseases Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Our service will minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases by adhering to all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases, promoting practices that reduce the transmission of infection, ensuring the exclusion of sick children and educators, supporting child immunisation and implement effective hygiene practices.

AIM

Our service has a duty of care to ensure that children families, educators and visitors of the service are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the service's operation. We aim to manage illnesses and prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout the service. Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people 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.

STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

New Immunisation Requirements

- Only parents of children (less than 20 years of age) who are fully immunised or are on a recognised catch-up schedule can receive the Child Care Benefit, the Child Care Rebate and the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement. The relevant vaccinations are those under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), which covers the vaccines usually administered before age five. These vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).
- Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases will continue to be exempt from the requirements.
- Conscientious objection and vaccination objection on non-medical grounds will no longer be a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.
- Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule will still be able to be enrolled upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.

A Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person will ensure:

- A hygienic environment is maintained.
- Cleaning of toys and bathrooms and door handles in the middle of each day are completed daily.
- Children are directed in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine.
- Educators are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves.
- Information is collected on enrolment and maintained regarding each child's immunisation status, and any medical conditions.
- To provide families with relevant sourced materials and information on infectious diseases, health and hygiene including:
 - The current ACT Immunisation Schedule/Requirements for children
 - Exclusion guidelines in the event of an infectious illness at the service for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all of their immunisations
 - Advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any specific infectious illnesses that are suspected/present in the service
- That an illness record form is completed no later than 24 hours of an illness occurring
- All educators are mindful and preserve confidentiality of individual children's medical circumstances
- Children's enrolment records are updated with regards to immunisation as required.
- To retain current records of staff immunisation status and ensure educators are familiar with procedures for exclusion of educators as well as children in the event of an infectious illness.
- To notify and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required
- To provide opportunities for educators, children and families to have access to health professionals by organising visits/guest speakers to attend the service to confirm best practice.
- Children do not attend the service if they are unwell. If a child has been sick they must be symptom free for 48hrs before returning to the service. For example, if a child is absent due to illness or is sent home due to illness they will be unable to attend the next two days.
- Toys and equipment that are absorbent and hard to clean will be aired in sunlight
- Washable toys and equipment will be washed in **detergent and hot water or the dishwasher** and left in the sun to dry.
- Furnishings, fabric tablecloths and pillowcases are to be laundered at the end of each week and hung out to dry. This will be increased to daily during an outbreak of illness in the service.
- Hard floor surfaces and carpets are professionally cleaned every 6 months.
- Floor surfaces are to be cleaned on a daily basis after each meal and at the end of each day.
- Toilets/bathrooms are to be cleaned in the middle of the day, the end of the day and whenever needed throughout the day using disinfectant and paper towel.
- Disposable paper towel and disinfectant are used to clean bodily fluids off beds, floors, bathrooms, etc.
- Professional cleaners are employed to clean the service every evening.

Educators will ensure:

- That any child suspected of having an infectious illness are responded to and their health and emotional needs supported at all times.
- To implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when treating ill children.
- Families are aware of the need to gather their children as soon as practicable.
- Advise families that they will need to alert the service if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness.
- To maintain their own immunisation status and advise the Approved Nominated Supervisor of any updates to their immunisation status.
- To provide diverse opportunities for children to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice.
- To adhere to the services health and hygiene policy including:
 - Hand washing
 - Daily cleaning of the service
 - Wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids)
 - Appropriate handling and preparation of food
 - Sanitise their hands when leaving the room, entering another room and re-entering their room
- Children are not to share beds at the same time
- Red micro fiber cloths and detergent based cleaner is used to clean the beds after each use
- All washable toys out on display for the children are to be washed/sanitised on a daily basis (3 times a week in the preschool room) in order to decrease the risk of cross contamination
- All play dough is to be made fresh every week. If there is an outbreak of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, or any other contagious communicable disease play dough is to be discarded at the end of each day and a new batch made the next day. Children are to wash their hands before and after using the play dough.
- Mops used for toilet accidents are to be soaked in disinfectant in a bucket in the laundry sink.
- A daily clean will be carried out on other surfaces that may transmit germs such as doorknobs, low shelving, etc.
- If a child has a toileting accident, the items will be placed in a plastic bag with the child's name on it. The plastic bag will be stored in a sealed container kept in the bathroom labelled 'soiled/wet clothing' for parents to take home.

Parents/Guardians will:

- Advise the service of their child's immunisation status, by providing written documentation of for the service to place in the child's file.
- Provide sufficient spare clothing, particularly if your child is toilet training

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW

- 77 - Health, hygiene and safe food practices
- 85 - Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
- 86 - Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
- 87 - Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
- 88 - Infectious diseases
- 90 – Medical conditions policy
- 162 - Health information to be kept in enrolment record

SOURCE LIST

This section contains websites, industry bodies, or Legislation that have been used to assist in sourcing the information for this policy. It also acts as a guide to sourcing further reading on each relevant policy.

- [Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority](#)
- [Early Childhood Australia - Code of Ethics](#)
- [Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#)
- [Guide to the National Quality Standard](#)
- [Revised National Quality Standard](#)
- [Work Health and Safety Act](#)
- [New Immunisation Requirements for Family Assistance Payments](#)
- [Staying Healthy Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services \(5th Edition\)](#)
- [Department of Human Services - Medicare Australia](#)
- [Public Health Amendment \(Vaccination of Children Attending Child CARE Facilities\) Act 2013 No46](#)
- [Public Health Regulation 2012](#)

RELATED POLICIES

- 2.02 Administration of Medications Policy
- 2.04 Incident, Illness, Accident and Trauma Policy
- 2.19 Work Health & Safety Policy
- 7.06 Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

POLICY REVIEW

The review schedule has been developed using a risk assessment methodology with consideration given to sector, industry, and legislative changes.

Date reviewed	Policy changed	Modifications	Next Review Date
May 2018	Yes	Updated to comply with revised National Quality Standard	March 2019