

DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES

OVERVIEW

This policy outlines roles and responsibilities of both staff and parents with regards to the management of infectious diseases. This policy also covers the use of DECD documents relating to 'Dealing with Infectious Diseases' including use of '[Staying Healthy in Childcare](#)' and recommended hygiene practices. It should be used in conjunction with site specific hygiene policies such as the 'Nappy Change Policy' and handwashing guidelines.

INSTRUCTIONS

The primary text for guiding this document is 'Staying Healthy in Childcare'. This document lists information about common diseases contracted in the early years and recommended treatment and exclusionary periods.

Risk assessment and identification of the illness should be done through following the [DECD Infectious Disease Control Procedure](#).

Leadership will:

- Oversee implementation of this policy.

Families will:

- Ensure their children's immunisations are up-to-date as detailed on the Child Youth Health website (<http://www.cyh.com/healthtopics/healthtopicdetails.aspx?p=114&np=303&id=1841>).
- Be aware that they are not eligible for CCR/CCB if they do not maintain their child's immunisation schedule.
- Inform the Centre as soon as possible if their child is diagnosed with a contagious disease.
- Be aware that during periods where a contagious disease has been identified in children at the Centre, unimmunised children may be sent home to prevent putting them at risk.
- Collect their child from care if requested by staff.
- Seek clearance from a medical professional, if requested by staff, before returning their child to care.
- Keep their children home from the Centre (including events and programs) until the appropriate exclusion period outlined in 'Staying Healthy in Childcare' has passed.

Educators will:

- Inform the Director if they believe they have contracted an infectious illness and remain home for the recommended exclusionary period.
- Support children to wash their hands before eating, after messy play and toileting.
- Follow the site's Nappy Change Policy and ensure a high level of hygiene practices to avoid spreading infectious diseases including washing their hands before handing food, before nappy changes, after assisting children with toileting or changing nappies, after sneezing, going to the bathroom or handling dangerous materials (cleaning materials, soil etc.)
- Notify other staff if advised by a parent that their child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease.
- Photocopy and display the relevant information from 'Staying Healthy in Childcare' outside the rooms, along with the number of cases identified within the Centre, once the potential illness is identified.

- Contact the parents of any children who exhibit any of the below symptoms:
 - Has a fever of 38° or higher
 - Has vomited more than once
 - Excreted more than one runny bowel action
 - Exhibit any symptoms identified as possible contagious in 'Staying Healthy in Childcare' e.g. rash, cold sores.
- Ensure children who are sent home are accompanied by an illness record outlining their symptoms, any required exclusionary period and if a medical clearance is requested.

Further information and guidelines can be found on the National Health and Medical Research Council (<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/ch55>).

Implemented: November 2013

Reviewed: July 2015

Next Review: July 2016

DECD Policies:

Dealing with Infectious Diseases sub-category (found at <http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/childrensservices/pages/policies/NQFpolicies/>)

DECD Forms:

Infectious Disease Control Procedure
Staying Healthy in Childcare (5th Edition)

Centre Policies:

Nappy Change Policy

Centre Forms:

Illness record