



Annette's Place Inc

Control of Infectious Diseases Policy

The spread of infections in the early childhood environment is facilitated by microbial contamination of the environment, as well as the developmentally appropriate unhygienic behaviours and greater exposure of young children. Our Service will minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases by researching 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 implementing effective hygiene practices.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected

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

PURPOSE

Children encounter many other children and adults within the Service environment, which can result in the contracting of infectious illnesses. 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 within the community, by reducing the spread of disease and illnesses.

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SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Information	Website	Phone Number
The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Service	http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule	1800 671 811
The NSW Immunisation Schedule	http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/nsw-immunisation-schedule.aspx	
NSW Health Local NSW Public Health Unit Contact Details	http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/phus.asp	1300 066 055

Note homeopathic immunisation is not recognised.

New Immunisation Requirements

- Only parents of children (less than 20 years of age) who meet immunisation requirements can receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) 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.
- **From 1 January 2018 [NSW]** children who are unvaccinated due to their parent's conscientious objection will no longer be able to enrol in childcare in NSW. 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 enrol upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.



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Management will ensure:

- That all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority.
- To consider the implementation of recommendations from Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in the early childhood environment.
- Children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are in place regarding health and safety within the Service.
- They collect, maintain, and appropriately store the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children in the Service.

A Nominated Supervisor/ Person in day to day charge will ensure:

- A hygienic environment is maintained.
- An external cleaning company cleans the premises daily.
- Cleaning charts are completed each day and signed by the Educator.
- Children are directed in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine.
- 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 as required, including:
 - The current NSW Immunisation Schedule 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
- To provide information to families about an infectious disease by emailing the Infectious Diseases Notification Form and details (hard copies will be placed at sign in/out areas).
- That an illness record form is completed no later than 24 hours of an illness occurring, remaining up to date and current.

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- 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, (i.e. as children reach age milestones for immunisation), or at least twice a year.
- To notify and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required
- To complete the register of illness and/or document of infectious diseases. Some diseases require the NSW Government Health Department to be notified.
- Children do not attend the Service if they are unwell, (i.e. not well enough to participate in the program as they usually would). When a child is unwell the Nominated Supervisor/Person in day to day charge has the right to request a medical certificate/clearance outlining the child is no longer contagious and in full health, before the child can return to the Service.
- Exclusion periods are adhered to for infectious diseases.
- Toys and equipment that are absorbent and hard to clean will be aired in sunlight whenever possible.
- Washable toys and equipment will be washed in detergent and hot water and aired to dry. All toys and equipment that have been cleaned will be recorded on the toy cleaning register.
- Individual dummy containers with the child's name clearly stated are used to reduce the risk of cross contamination.
- Floor surfaces are to be cleaned once a day and whenever needed throughout the day.
- Toilets/bathrooms are to be cleaned twice a day and whenever needed throughout the day.
- Disposable paper towel and disinfectant are used to clean bodily fluids off beds, floors, bathrooms etc

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.



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- Families are aware of the need to gather their children as soon as practicable, and within one hour if paracetamol is administered by the Service.
- Advise families that they will need to alert the service if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness.
- To provide diverse opportunities for children to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice.
- To take into consideration the combination of children to decrease the risk of attaining an infectious illness when planning the routines/program of the day.
- To adhere to the Services procedures including:
 - Hand washing
 - Daily cleaning of the Service
 - Wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids)
 - Appropriate handling and preparation of food
- Maintain up to date knowledge with respect to Health and Safety through ongoing professional development opportunities.
- Children will rest 'head to toe' to avoid cross infection while resting or asleep.
- Children are not to share beds at the same time.
- Warm soapy water is used to clean the beds after each use.
- All toys will be washed with warm soapy water on a daily or weekly basis as required 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 during this time.
- Commencing 2019, all families of children attending the Service will provide a water proof bag that can be sealed and clearly labelled. The bag will be used to transport wet and soiled items home while being mindful of sustainability, health and hygiene. Families can purchase bags from the office. The bags are reusable and should last the entire duration of the child's enrolment.

Families will:



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- Advise the Service of their child's immunisation status, by providing an approved document for the Service to copy and place in the child's file.
- Advise the Service when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated and provide this information to the service to ensure that enrolment records are up to date.
- Provide sufficient spare clothing, particularly if a child is toilet training.
- Ensure their children do not attend the Service if they are unwell (i.e. not well enough to participate in the program as they usually would).

Source

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014)
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015
- ECA Code of Ethics
- Guide to the National Quality Standard
- [http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/\\$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf).
- Department of Human Resources: National Immunisation Program Schedule NHMRC
- Staying Healthy Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition
- Medicare Australia
- Public Health Act 2010 (as amended by Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013
- Public Health Regulation 2012
- Revised National Quality Standard

Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
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May 2017	Minor changes made to policy and terminology to ensure best practice	June 2018
October 2017	Updated the references to comply with the revised National Quality Standard	October 2018

Table 1.1 Recommended minimum exclusion periods

Condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts*
<i>Campylobacter</i> infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Candidiasis (thrush)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	Not excluded	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis	Not excluded
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Diarrhoea (no organism identified)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Fungal infections of the skin or nails (e.g. ringworm, tinea)	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment	Not excluded
Giardiasis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Glandular fever (mononucleosis, Epstein–Barr virus [EBV] infection)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried	Not excluded
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)	Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice
Head lice (pediculosis)	Exclude until one hour after appropriate treatment has commenced. Not excluded	
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received and until at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group
Hepatitis B	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hepatitis C	Not excluded	Not excluded
Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)	Not excluded if the person can maintain hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission If the person cannot comply with these practices (e.g. because they are too young), they should be excluded until the sores are dry Sores should be covered with a dressing, where possible	Not excluded
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Not excluded If the person is severely immune compromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses	Not excluded
Human parvovirus B19 (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Not excluded	Not excluded

* Please note Annette's Place has a different exclusion period to Staying Healthy in childcare 5th Edition. for Head Lice.

Condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts*
Hydatid disease	Not excluded	Not excluded
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing	Not excluded
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Listeriosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
Measles	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash	Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded For non-immunised contacts, contact a public health unit for specialist advice All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the appearance of the rash in the last case
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about antibiotics and/or vaccination for people who were in the same room as the case
Molluscum contagiosum	Not excluded	Not excluded
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded
Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded
Pertussis (whooping cough)	Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the onset of coughing	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated contacts, or antibiotics
Pneumococcal disease	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Roseola	Not excluded	Not excluded
Ross River virus	Not excluded	Not excluded
Rotavirus infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until the person has fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
Salmonellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Scabies	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate treatment	Not excluded
Shigellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well	Not excluded
Toxoplasmosis	Not excluded	Not excluded

Condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts ^a
Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from the appropriate health authority	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about screening, antibiotics or specialist TB clinics
Varicella (chickenpox)	Exclude until all blisters have dried—this is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in non-immunised children, and less in immunised children	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection as they are at high risk of developing severe disease Otherwise, not excluded
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Worms	Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring Exclusion is not necessary if treatment has occurred	Not excluded

a The definition of 'contacts' will vary according to the disease—refer to the specific fact sheet for more information.

b If the cause is unknown, possible exclusion for 48 hours until the cause is identified. However, educators and other staff who have a food handling role should always be excluded until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours. Adapted from SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/ygw/index.htm>. Note that exclusion advice is consistent with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia Series of National Guidelines (SoNGs), where available.

Some diseases—such as pertussis, typhoid, tuberculosis, meningococcal disease and hepatitis A—can cause concern among parents and sometimes interest from the media. Education and care services should consult their local public health unit, which can provide support and education in the event of a concerning disease.