



# Infectious Diseases

Review Date: 30/10/2027

## Introduction

Ensuring the health and safety of children, and staff, and supporting children's ongoing wellbeing, is a core focus of the delivery of an Education and Care Service.

Educators need to be aware of the likelihood of young children being exposed to an infectious illness whilst in care.

Maintaining hygiene practices within the service and teaching young children about health and hygiene will assist in the prevention of infectious diseases.

Providing families with timely and current information will further support this process.

## Goals – What are we going to do?

Children's exposure to infectious diseases will be minimised by:

- our preschool following all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases;
- promotion of practices that reduce the transmission of infection;
- the exclusion of sick children and staff;
- service support for child immunisation; and
- implementation of effective hand washing procedures.

## Strategies - How will it be done?

### Approved Provider will:

- ensure that all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority, such as: *Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care* (5<sup>th</sup> edition), National Health and Medical Research Council (2013), and the NSW Department of Health website;
- implement the recommendations from *Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care* to prevent the spread of infectious diseases at the service;

- ensure that children are reasonably protected from harm by working with the Nominated Supervisor and Educators on developing, implementing and reviewing policy that will guide health and safety procedures within the service; and;
- collect, maintain, and store appropriately the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children in the service.

**Nominated Supervisor will:**

- Develop procedures for:
  - » maintaining a hygienic environment;
  - » providing families with relevant infectious diseases, health and hygiene information;
  - » guiding children's understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program;
  - » ensuring staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves;

and

  - » maintaining relevant records regarding the current status of the immunisation of staff and children at the service, as well as any relevant medical conditions of children at the service.
- Develop an enrolment procedure that captures all required information regarding the children's immunisation status, and any medical conditions.
- Provide relevant sourced materials to families about:
  - » the current NSW Immunisation Schedule for children;
  - » exclusion guidelines for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all of their immunisations in the event of an infectious illness at the service, upon induction at the service;
  - » advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any specific infectious illnesses that are suspected/present in the service; and
  - » providing information on illnesses (as soon as practicable after the occurrence of an infectious disease).
- Provide information to families as soon as practicable of the occurrence of an infectious disease that describe the:
  - » nature of illness;
  - » incubation period; and
  - » infectious and exclusion periods.

This information will be sourced from a reliable source such as, *Staying Healthy in Childcare - Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition), National Health and Medical Research Council (2013).

- Ensuring that an "Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness" record is completed as soon as practicable or no later than 24 hours of the illness occurring;
- Ensure that processes (such as a "Communication Book and/or Staff Memo) is completed and forwarded to all educators so that they are aware of individual children's circumstances;
- Maintaining confidentiality with regards to children's individual medical circumstances, by putting procedures in place to safeguard children and families personal information;
- Devising a routine written process for updating children's enrolment records with regards to immunisation, ensuring that this occurs as required, (i.e. as children reach age milestones for immunisation), or at least twice a year;
- Advising staff of the recommended immunisations for people working with children as per the Australian Government Department of Health  
<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/resources/publications/vaccination-for-people-who-care-for-others#>
- Maintaining current records of staff immunisation status and ensuring educators familiarity with written procedures for exclusion of educators as well as children in the event of an infectious illness;
- Providing opportunities for educators to source relevant up to date information on the prevention of infectious diseases, and maintaining health and hygiene from trusted sources;
- Ensuring opportunities for educators and families to be involved in the review of the policies and procedures regarding children's health and safety; and
- Inform and implement the advice of the NSW Health Department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required.
- Write risk assessments for severe outbreaks of infectious disease or pandemics.

#### **Educators will:**

- Respond to any children suspected of having an infectious illness, ensuring their health and emotional needs are supported at all times;
- Implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when tending to ill children;
- Ensure that families are aware of the need to collect their children as soon as practicable to ensure the child's wellbeing;
- Advise families that they will need to alert the service if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious illness;

- Maintain their own immunisation status, and advise the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor of any updates to their immunisation status;
- Provide varied opportunities for children to engage in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice;
- Take into consideration the grouping of children to reduce the risk of acquiring an infectious illness when planning the routines/program of the day;
- Implement the services health and hygiene policy including:
  - » any current risk assessments;
  - » handwashing – washing and drying thoroughly;
  - » routine and daily cleaning of the service;
  - » wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids); and
  - » proper handling and preparation of food.
- Provide opportunities for staff, children and families to have access to health professionals by organising visits/guest speakers to attend the service to ensure that practices in place at the service are correct; and
- Maintain currency with regard to Health and Safety by attending appropriate professional development opportunities.

**Families will:**

- Advise the service of their child’s immunisation status, provide written documentation of this.
- 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; and
- Have the opportunity to provide input into the review and effectiveness of policies and procedures of the service.

## Sources

Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2018)

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

EYLF – Belonging Being Becoming v 2.0 (2022)

Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care (6th edition – 2024)

NSW Department of Health:  
[www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

National Health and Medical Research Council (2024). Staying healthy: preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services, NHMRC, Canberra.  
[www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)

Immunisation Handbook –  
<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations (3) (2011)

## Statutory Legislation & Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010, Regulations (88), (89)

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Public Health Act 2010

Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Bill 2013

## Related Policies

- Incident, Injury, Trauma & Illness
- First Aid
- First Aid Plan
- Emergency and Evacuation
- Maintaining a Clean Environment
- Food Handling and Hygiene

## Evaluation

Infection control is effectively managed at the service to ensure children remain healthy and transmission of infectious diseases are minimised.

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

## Appendices

- Notification form
- Recommended Minimum Exclusion Periods
- National Immunisation Schedule

### On behalf of the Management Committee:

**Name:** ..... Ashliegh Mitchell .....

**Signature:** .....

**Date:** ..... 28/11/2023 .....

**REVIEW DATE:** ..... 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 .....

### POLICY REVISION

Reviewed	Adopted by	Review date
03/08/2017	Belinda Fayle (President)	03/08/2019
15/06/2021	Aaron Kennedy (Treasurer)	15/06/2023
28/11/2023	Narissa Cuskelly	28/11/2025
30/10/2025	Ashliegh Mitchell	30/10/2027