

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

The spread of infections in the early childhood environment is facilitated by microbial contamination of the environment, as well as the greater exposure to young children who are still developing hygienic behaviours and habits. 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 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	
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

## RELATED POLICIES

Administration of Medication Policy Dental Health Policy Health and Safety Policy Immunisation Policy Incident, Illness, Accident & Trauma Policy	Medical Conditions Policy Nappy Change & Toileting Policy Physical Environment Policy Sick Children Policy Sleeping & Rest Requirement Policy Work Health and Safety Policy
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**PURPOSE**

Children encounter many other children and adults within the Service environment which can result in the contraction 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.

**SCOPE**

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

**IMPLEMENTATION**

**INFORMATION TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE SERVICE.**

INFORMATION	WEBSITE	PHONE NUMBER
The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Service	<a href="https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program">https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program</a>	1800 020 103
South Australia Immunisation Program	<a href="http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au">www.sahealth.sa.gov.au</a>	

*Note homeopathic immunisation is not recognised.*

**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 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 Immunisation Register (AIR).

- 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 is no longer be a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.
- Families eligible to receive family assistance payments and have children less than 20 years of age, who may not meet the new immunisation requirements, will be notified by Centrelink. (The details of vaccinations given to persons less than 20 years of age can be submitted for inclusion on the AIR by your local GP.)

*Refer to Immunisation Policy for more information*

#### Management will ensure:

- That all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority.
- The implementation of recommendations from *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services*.
- Children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the Service.
- They collect, maintain, and appropriately store the required enrolment documents and enrolment information, including health and immunisation records of children in the Service.

#### A Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible person will ensure:

- A hygienic environment is maintained.
- Cleaning charts are completed each day and signed by the Educator.
- Children are supported in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine.
- Educators and Staff 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.
- Families are provided with relevant sourced materials and information on infectious diseases, health, and hygiene including:
  - The current South Australian Immunisation Schedule.
  - Exclusion guidelines in the event of an infectious illness at the Service for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all 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.
- Families are provided with information about an infectious disease by displaying and emailing the Infectious Diseases Notification Form and details.
- That an illness record form is completed no later than 24 hours of an illness occurring.
- All educators are mindful and maintain 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.
- Staff are advised of the recommended immunisations for people working with children
- Current records of staff immunisation status are retained and educators are familiar with procedures for exclusion of educators as well as children in the event of an infectious illness occurring at the Service.
- That opportunities for educators to source pertinent up to date information from trusted sources on the prevention of infectious diseases and maintaining health and hygiene are provided.
- To notify and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required
- That opportunities for staff, children, and families to have access to health professionals by organising visits/guest speakers to attend the service to confirm best practice are provided.
- Children do not attend the Service if they are unwell. If a child has been sick they must be well for 24hrs 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 day as a minimum. The Nominated Supervisor may approve the child's return to the Service if families provide a doctor's certificate/clearance certifying that the child is no longer contagious and is in good health.
- To complete the register of illness and/or document incidents of infectious diseases. Some diseases require your state authority to be notified.
- Cloths are colour coded so that a separate cloth is used for floors, bathroom, art and craft, and meal surfaces.
- Resources and equipment that are hard to clean will be washed with detergent and air-dried in sunlight.
- Washable resources and equipment will be washed in detergent and hot water and aired to dry .
- All cleaning procedures will be recorded on the Service's Cleaning Checklist.
- Tablecloths will be washed regularly and at least once a week. Bedding will be washed after five uses per child. A roster is in place to ensure that all bedding is washed when necessary.
- Floor surfaces will be cleaned on a daily basis after each meal and at the end of each day.
- Toilets/bathrooms will 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

#### Educators will ensure:

- That any child suspected of having an infectious illness is responded to and their health and emotional needs supported at all times.
- That appropriate health and safety procedures are implemented when treating ill children.
- Families are aware of the need to collect their unwell child/ children as soon as practicable.
- Families are advised that they must alert the Service if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness.
- Their own immunisation status is maintained, and the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor is advised of any updates to their immunisation status.
- Opportunities are provided for children to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice.
- Consideration is given to the combination of children to decrease the risk of attaining an infectious illness when planning the routines/program of the day.
- They adhere to the Service's health and hygiene policy including:
  - Hand washing
  - Daily cleaning of the Service
  - Wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids)
  - Appropriate and hygienic handling and preparation of food
- They maintain up to date knowledge with respect to Health and Safety through on-going professional development opportunities.
- That children rest 'head to toe' to avoid cross infection while resting or sleeping.
- Children do not to share beds at the same time.
- Paper towel and disinfectant is used to clean the beds after each use.
- That any resource that is mouthed by a child is to be washed with warm soapy water immediately or put aside and washed at the end of the day. All washable resources out on display for the children are to be washed/ or sprayed with disinfection on a weekly basis to decrease the risk of cross contamination and recorded with the date and a signature as evidence.
- That all play dough is 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 each day for the duration of the outbreak. Children are to wash their hands before and after using the play dough.
- That mops used for toilet accidents are to be soaked in disinfectant in a bucket in the laundry sink and then air-dried.

- That a weekly clean is carried out on other surfaces that may transmit germs such as doorknobs, low shelving, etc. This will be increased if an outbreak has been recorded in the Service.
- That if a child has a toileting accident, the items are placed in a plastic bag with the child’s name on it. The plastic bag will be stored in a sealed container labelled ‘soiled/wet clothing’ for parents to take home.

**Families will:**

- Advise the Service of their child’s immunisation status, by providing approved written documentation for the Service to copy and place in the child’s file.
- Advise the Service when their child’s immunisation/medical condition is updated to ensure that immunisation and medical records are up to date.
- Provide sufficient spare clothing, particularly if the child is toilet training.

**Source**

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).  
 Department of Human Resources: National Immunisation Program Schedule: <https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program>  
 Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).  
 Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).  
 Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2017).  
 Medicare Australia (Department of Human Services): <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/medicare>  
 National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>  
 National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012). *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.*  
 No Jab No Play: <https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/no-jab-no-pay-new-requirements-fact-sheet>  
*Public Health Act 2010*  
*Public Health Amendment Act 2017*  
 Public Health Regulation 2012  
 Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

**REVIEW**

<b>POLICY REVIEWED</b>	<b>JANUARY 2020</b>	<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b>	<b>JANUARY 2022</b>
<b>MODIFICATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changed formatting to suit other policies.</li> </ul>		