

D-12 Illness and Infectious Diseases

National Quality Standards (NQS)

2.1	Each child's health is promoted.
2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
5.1.2	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.
7.1.2	Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Reg. 12	Meaning of serious incident
Reg. 85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
Reg. 86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
Reg. 87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
Reg. 88	Infectious diseases
Reg. 103	Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair
Reg. 106	Laundry and hygiene facilities
Reg. 109	Toilet and hygiene facilities
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

Policy Statement

We aim to provide a safe and hygienic environment that will promote the health of all children. As the care needs of a sick child cannot be met without dramatically reducing the general level of supervision of the other children, or risking other children's health, parents will be asked not to bring sick children to the service and to collect children who are unwell. All care and consideration will be given to a child who becomes ill while at the service. Children with infectious diseases will be excluded from the service as recommended by the Department of Health.

Related Policies

- Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy
- Communication Policy
- Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy
- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- First Aid Policy
- HIV/AIDS/Hep B & C Policy

- Hygiene Policy
- Immunisation Policy
- Interactions with Children Policy
- Maintenance of Records Policy
- Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
- Rest and Sleep Policy
- Staff Orientation and Induction Policy
- Work Health and Safety Policy

Procedure

Parents will be informed about the illness and infectious diseases policy on enrolment.

Illness

A child or adult will be considered sick if he/she:

- Sleeps at unusual times, is lethargic
- Has a fever over 38 degrees Celsius
- Is crying constantly from discomfort
- Vomits or has diarrhoea
- Is in need of constant one to one care
- Has an infectious disease

If a child is unwell at home parents will be asked not to bring the child to the service.

If a staff member is unwell they should not report for work. Staff should contact the Nominated Supervisor as soon as possible to inform them that they are unable to attend work.

If a child becomes ill or develops symptoms while at the service, the parents will be contacted to take the child home.

If a staff member becomes ill or develops symptoms while at the service, they should return home if able or organise for someone to take them home.

The Nominated Supervisor or Responsible Person will organise a suitable replacement as soon as possible.

If a child is ill, they will be comforted, cared for and placed in a quiet isolated area with adult supervision until the child's parent or other authorised person takes them home. If the child has a fever the parents will be informed immediately.

During a fever, other methods will be employed to bring the child's temperature down until the parents arrive or help is sought. Such methods include excess clothes removed as required, clear fluids given, tepid sponges or compress applied.

If a child's temperature is very high, and it can neither be brought down or the parents cannot be contacted, an ambulance will be called.

Infectious Diseases

Children and staff will be excluded from the service if they are ill with any contagious illness. This includes diarrhoea and conjunctivitis.

The period of exclusion will be based on the recommendations outlined by the Department of Health. Recommended exclusion periods can be found in the *NHMRC Staying Healthy – Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services Guidelines* (<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>)

The decision to exclude or re-admit a child or staff member will be the responsibility of the Nominated Supervisor based on the child's symptoms, medical clearance and Department of Health's guidelines for children who have an infectious disease or have been exposed to an infectious disease.

The Nominated Supervisor or Responsible Person have the right to refuse access if concerned about the child's health or the risk it may pose to the other children's health and wellbeing.

A Doctor's clearance certificate will be required for all infectious disease such as measles, mumps, hepatitis A, polio, tuberculosis, typhoid and paratyphoid before returning to the service.

Parents will be informed about the occurrence of an infectious disease in the service ensuring that the individual rights of staff or children are not infringed upon.

The Public Health Unit will be notified if any child or staff member contracts a vaccine-preventable disease.

Under the provisions of the Public Health Act 2010 and Regulation, the Nominated Supervisor is required to notify the following vaccine-preventable diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Haemophilus influenzae type B
- Measles
- Meningococcal type C
- Mumps
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Poliomyelitis
- Rubella
- Tetanus

Notification mechanisms

Infectious diseases will be directed to the Local Public Health Unit by the Nominated Supervisor and should be notified within 24 hours of diagnosis. All infectious diseases notification forms are available from Public health Units.

Contact details for our local Public Health Unit are as follows:

Hornsby Public Health Unit (Northern Sydney LHD)

Hornsby Hospital, Palmerston Rd, Hornsby, 2077

Phone: (02) 9477 9400

Fax: (02) 9482 1650 / 94821358 (secure line)

After hours

Phone: (02) 9477 9123

(Hornsby Hospital) - ask for Public Health Officer on call

Infection control and prevention

The service will follow all guidelines and recommendations provided by New South Wales Department of Health to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, staff and families.

All staff will ensure proper hygiene practices are carried out as outlined in the Hygiene policy.

Hand washing will be practised by all staff and children upon entering the service, before preparing or eating food and after other tasks such as toileting, cleaning up any items, wiping a nose, before and after administering first aid, playing outside or handling an animal. In addition, staff will wash their hands before leaving the service.

Staff will maintain and model appropriate hygiene practices and encourage the children to adopt effective hygiene practices. As part of children taking increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing, staff will acknowledge children who are modelling hygiene practices.

Informal education in proper hygiene practices will be conducted on a regular basis, either individually or as a group through conversations, planned experiences, inclusion in service routines and reminders. Health and hygiene practices will be highlighted to parents, and where appropriate information sheets or posters will be used by staff to support these practices.

The service will be cleaned daily and rosters maintained as evidence of the cleaning tasks being undertaken. Toys will be washed, cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis (no less than termly).

All toilet facilities will have access to a basin or sink with running water and soap and paper towel for washing and drying hands. Women and girls will have access to proper feminine hygiene disposal.

Staff will be advised upon appointment to the position to maintain their immunity to common childhood diseases, tetanus and Hepatitis B through immunisation with their local medical professional.

Sources

- Community Early Learning Australia – Incident Injury Trauma and Illness, Sample Policy
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) – *Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services*
- National Quality Standard – Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority

- Network of Community Activities – Dealing with Infectious Diseases Sample Policy
- Public Health Act 2010
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

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Version Control			
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	- Included link to NHMRC guidelines (National Health and medical Research Council)	Staff	
	- Included Public Health Unit contact details	Staff	
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