

Infectious Diseases Policy

To be read with -
Immunisation and Disease Prevention Policy

NQS

QA2	2.1.1	Each child's health needs are supported.
	2.1.4	Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.

National Regulations

Regs	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

Aim

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 in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

Related Policies

Enrolment Policy
Food Nutrition and Beverage Policy
Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Policy
Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Infectious Diseases Policy
Medical Conditions Policy
Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

Who is affected by this policy?

Child
Parents
Family
Educators
Management

Visitors

Volunteers

Implementation

- The service will use “Staying Healthy - Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services” to guide exclusion of children and educators and inform families of exclusion periods. We will minimise the spread of potential infectious diseases between children, other children and educators by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend the service and facilitating the prevention and effective management of acute illness in children.
- Notification of the child’s parents or nominated contacts will occur immediately.
- All appropriate notifications to the local Public Health Unit are available under the ‘Infectious Diseases” requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit and must occur within 24 hours. The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for notifying the local Public Health Unit.
- Children might be brought to care with symptoms or signs of illness or while in care suddenly develop an illness that has not been diagnosed by a doctor, and that might be potentially infectious or potentially life-threatening for the child. Symptoms may not clearly fit those listed in exclusion diseases making it difficult for the service to decide whether to accept or exclude the child from the service. Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care, and many non-exclusion diseases can make a child too ill to participate in normal care activities.

If an infectious disease arises at the service we will respond to any symptoms in the following manner -

- Isolate the child from other children.
- Ensure the child is comfortable and appropriately supervised by educators.
- Contact the child’s parents or nominated emergency contact. If the child’s parents are unavailable we will contact the next nominated person. We will inform the contact of the child’s condition and ask for a parent or other authorised person to pick the child up as quickly as possible. Any person picking the child up from the service must be approved by the child’s parents and be able to show identification.
- Ensure all bedding, towels and clothing which has been used by the child is disinfected and washing in hot water with bleach if possible. These items will be washed separately and if possible air dried in the sun.
- Ensure all toys used by the child are disinfected.
- Ensure all eating utensils used by the child are separated and sterilised.
- Provide information in the child’s home languages to the best of our ability.
- Inform all service families and educators of the presence of an infectious disease on Hub Hello.

- Ensure confidentiality of any personal health related information obtained by the service and educators in relation to any child or their family.
- If a child or educator has been unable to attend the Service because of an infectious illness the person must provide a doctors certificate which specifically states the child/educator is ok to return to the Service.

Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit

Infectious Diseases notification should be directed by telephone to the local Public Health Unit, and should be initiated within twenty-four hours of diagnosis.

NSW local Public Health unit directory and contact details are available on the following NSW Health website –

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/phus.asp>

All infectious diseases notification forms are available from Public Health Units and on the NSW Health website –

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/forms>.

As outlined under Section 42D, Public Health Act 1991 (NSW), the Nominated Supervisor of a service is required to notify the local Public Health Unit of the following infectious disease occurrences at the service –

- Diphtheria
- Measles
- Mumps
- Pertussis (Whooping cough)
- Poliomyelitis
- Rubella (German measles)
- Tetanus

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends that all educators and other staff are immunised against:

- pertussis—this is especially important for educators and other staff caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated. Even if the adult was vaccinated in childhood, booster vaccination may be necessary because immunity to pertussis decreases over time
- measles–mumps–rubella (MMR) for educators and other staff born during or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have antibodies against rubella
- varicella for educators and other staff who have not previously had varicella (a blood test is required to prove previous infection)

- hepatitis A, because young children can be infectious even if they are not showing any symptoms. All staff should also consider having yearly influenza vaccinations. Influenza is very infectious and can spread through the air by coughing and sneezing, as well as by hands, cups and other objects that have been in contact with an infected person's mouth or nose.

[file:///C:/Users/bottl/Downloads/21521%20NHMRC%20-%20Staying%20Healthy%20accessible%20FF%20\(3\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/bottl/Downloads/21521%20NHMRC%20-%20Staying%20Healthy%20accessible%20FF%20(3).pdf)

Prevention of infectious diseases in pregnant educators.

Refer to the Stay Healthy in Childcare manual for the full list of pregnancy precautions.

To prevent the chance of infection from Cytomegalovirus CMV that is spread through infection urine and saliva pregnant educators at Bottleforest will not be responsible for changing nappies and toileting children in order to decrease the chance of infection. Glove will be worn by all staff when feeding children or cleaning faces.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard

Department of Health and Aging, National Immunisation Program Schedule

NHMRC. Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing infectious diseases in child care 4th edition

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 (NSW)

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2001

Public Health Act 1991

NSW Health Policy Directive - Notification of Infectious Diseases under the Public Health Act 1991

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. The review will be conducted by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

Reviewed 17/1/2024