**Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies**

**Policy statement**

We aim to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

**Procedures for children who are sick or infectious**

* If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – a staff member will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
* If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
* The child's temperature is taken using a digital thermometer, kept in the locked cupboard.
* In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
* Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; we can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
* Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
* After diarrhoea and/or sickness, we ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
* Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
* We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities) and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

*Reporting of ‘notifiable diseases’*

* If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
* When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our manager informs Ofsted and contacts Public Health England, and acts on any advice given.

*HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure*

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. We:

* Wear single-use gloves and aprons when changing children’s nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
* Bag soiled clothing for parents to take home for cleaning.
* Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
* Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

*Head lice*

* Head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
* On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

*Procedures for children with allergies*

* When children start at the setting we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
* If a child has an allergy, we complete a health care plan to detail the following:
	+ The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
	+ The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc).
	+ What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. Epipen).
	+ Control measures - such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
	+ Review measures.
* The health care plan is kept in the health care plan file and a copy is kept in the register file for easy access to staff members.

*Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities*

* At all times we ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
* If we are unsure about any aspect, We contact the Early Years Alliance Insurance team on 020 7697 2585 or email insurance@eyalliance.org.uk.