

BALLYBAY KINDERGARTEN CLG

# INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

## Policy statement

Ballybay Kindergarten CLG is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, colleagues and families. This policy outlines measures to prevent and manage the spread of infectious diseases in line with guidance from the Health Service Executive (HSE), Tusla (Child and Family Agency) and the Department of Health.

## Policy objectives

- Minimising the risk of infection transmission
- Promoting hygiene awareness and good practices
- Responding promptly and appropriately to infectious disease outbreaks
- Ensure compliance with national regulations and public health advice

## Responsibilities

Person in charge & registered provider:

- Ensuring this policy is implemented and reviewed regularly
- Providing infection control training for all staff
- Liaising with public health authorities during outbreaks

Colleagues:

- Following infection control procedures
- Monitoring children for signs of illness
- Communicating any concerns to the person in charge & the registered provider

Parents/guardians:

- Keep sick children at home
- Inform the service of any diagnosed infections
- Comply with exclusion periods as outlined

## Risk assessments

Risk assessments will always be undertaken by colleagues to assess if activities, actions or environments pose risks from an infection control standpoint to the children and staff of named service.

## **Hand washing**

Colleague handwashing is modelled and guided for children, after using the toilet, before eating/preparing food, after wiping noses, waste disposal and mopping up spills.

Colleagues must wash their hands, before preparing or serving food, after going to the toilet, assisting children going to the toilet, changing a nappy, dealing with bodily fluids, caring for sick children, handling soiled clothing, dealing with waste.

Children are encouraged to wash their hands with warm water and liquid soap under supervision when necessary, including after visiting the toilet, after handling animals and after outside play and activities. Clear guidance on handwashing is outlined for children and colleagues alike in our service.

Colleagues will supervise and assist children to encourage effective handwashing, appropriate to their age.

## **Food preparation**

Colleague always wash hands before preparing and serving food and will always wash their hands after prepping food and removing waste food and materials.

Perishable food is kept in a refrigerator, between temperatures of 0 and 5 Celsius. Any perishable food left at room temperature for more than 2 hours will be discarded safely. Food will be prepared hygienically, taking care with raw and prepared food, to avoid cross contamination

## **Cleaning and the premises**

All colleagues are aware of their role in maintaining high standards of hygiene.

We reinforce good practice regarding keeping the environment and premises clean and safe.

Spillages of blood, faeces, urine, vomit or other bodily fluids or excretions are cleaned immediately and with priority. Mops are not to be used for these and extreme caution is exercised at all times.

We have a contract with a bin removal company for the removal and disposal of all waste.

Our premises are free from pests and rodents.

All staff colleagues regular support & supervision in relation to infection control and training is provided.

We carry and maintain a good stock of cleaning products and tools to ensure that hygiene practices can be carried out at all times. Toys and play materials are cleaned, with attention placed on especially soiled items.

Toilets, floors, shelves storing bags, tables and chairs and other areas are cleaned daily to help decrease the spread of infection.

At least once a day, even in winter, all rooms in the service are aired out.

Our cleaning schedule is located in our teacher's press.

## Respiratory hygiene

- Teach children to cover coughs/sneezes with a tissue or elbow
- Dispose of tissues in a lined bin immediately
- Wash hands after sneezing or coughing

## Nappy changing & toileting

- Dedicated changing area with disposable gloves and aprons
- Clean and disinfect changing area after each use
- Toilet areas cleaned at least daily

## Illness and exclusion

See our illness & exclusion policy for full details.

Children must not attend if they:

- Have a temperature above 38°C
- Are vomiting or have diarrhoea (must stay home for at least 48 hours after last episode)
- Have a contagious condition (e.g. chickenpox, conjunctivitis, flu)
- Show signs of respiratory infection (cough, sore throat, etc.)

### When should my child return to school/ childcare?

<b>Chicken Pox</b> When scabs are dry	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay out*	<b>Diarrhoea or Vomiting</b> 48 hours after the last episode	<b>Flu</b> 5 days after start of illness	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay out*
<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay out*	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay out*	<b>Impetigo</b> When scabs are dry or 24 hours after starting antibiotics	<b>Measles</b> 4 days after rash appears	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days after swelling appears
<b>Scabies</b> After first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after starting antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay out*	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay out*	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 5 days after starting antibiotics or 21 days after start of illness

This information is based on the Management of Infectious Diseases in Schools guidance document.

\*No need to stay out if child is well but school or childcare provider should be informed.

A full list of infectious diseases and exclusion periods is available from the HSE's "Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings".

### **Managing suspected infections**

If a child becomes unwell in our care:

- They will be isolated in a supervised and well-ventilated area
- Parents/guardians will be contacted for immediate collection
- Colleagues will wear appropriate PPE if required
- The area will be thoroughly cleaned after the child leaves

### **Reporting to public health authorities**

The person in charge or registered provider or will report notifiable diseases to the local Department of Public Health in accordance with the Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981.

### **Immunisations**

Parents are made aware of the HSE Childhood Immunisation Programme and Guidelines.

### **Outbreak management**

In the event of an outbreak:

- Enhanced cleaning measures will be implemented
- Parents will be informed while maintaining confidentiality
- Public health guidance will be followed regarding closures, isolation or exclusion

### **Review & updates**

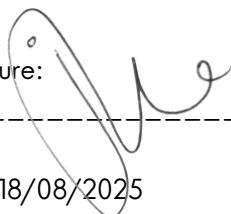
This policy will be reviewed annually or as required to ensure it remains aligned with legal requirements and best practices.

This policy was adopted by Ballybay Kindergarten CLG on this 15th day of August 2025.

Persons responsible: Jamie Macleod-Elliott

Designation: Director & Company Secretary

Signature:



Date: 18/08/2025

Version: 002