

Infectious Illnesses Policy and Procedures



Policy Category: Health and Safety HS 26

Rationale

To ensure all practicable steps are taken to ensure that tamariki do not come into contact with any person (adult or child) at the kindergarten who is suffering from a disease or condition likely to be passed onto children and likely to have a detrimental effect on them.

Objectives

- To ensure that children who become unwell at kindergarten are kept at a safe distance from other children (to minimize the spread of infection) until collected by an authorized caregiver.
- To follow suggested actions for specific infectious diseases as per **Appendix 2: Infectious diseases for Criterion HS26**

Procedures

- The inside kaiako will attend to the unwell child who will be given a quiet place to rest and kept at a safe distance from other children to minimize the spread of infection. See also the washing **procedure for sick and soiled children**.
- The child's authorized caregiver will be contacted as soon as possible and be asked to take the child home.
- Information about the disease/illness will be shared with the caregiver by showing them Appendix 2, including actions to be taken such as excluding the child from the kindergarten.
- The Public health nurse and MOE will be notified of any notifiable illnesses and the kindergarten management team will follow their advice. Public health will also advise us if a child attending our kindergarten has a notifiable illness.
- Although immunization is not a compulsory requirement for attendance at an early childhood centre, we hold a copy of each child's immunization certificate on file and within our CMS immunization register even if a parent has chosen not to proceed with immunization. In the case of a notifiable disease or a suspected notifiable disease the Public Health Nurse or the Medical Officer of Health will need access to information on all children in attendance at kindergarten. It is the responsibility

Policy Folder: Health and Safety

of the Public Health Nurses and the Medical Officer of Health to make decisions regarding the exclusion and treatment of children. Children who are not immunized may be asked to stay at home in cases of Pertussis, Diphtheria and Measles.

Immunization information from the Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation will be displayed at this centre. For any Immunization queries, we will contact the Immunization Nurse Specialist at Regional Public Health.

- Other kindergarten families will be notified and given advice on actions to be taken.
- **Head Lice:** Because of the potential for head lice to spread rapidly amongst tamariki, kaiako will communicate with each other if they notice them in a child's hair. Parents / whānau will be contacted as soon as possible and requested to collect their child so that treatment to eradicate may commence as soon as possible. Support and guidance will be offered both verbally and through Department of Health literature and emphasis will be placed on the importance of continuing treatment in the weeks following the first sighting. Once the child's hair has been treated they may return to kindergarten but kaiako will continue to be vigilant over the next few weeks.
- All hats, including dress up hats, will be laundered as necessary

Review

Policy will be reviewed every 3 years as per our review schedule or when a change is required.

Ratified	
Date	September 2024
Review Date	September 2027
Consultation undertaken	Yes

References

- Te Whāriki Early Childhood Curriculum 2017 Well Being Strand.
- Education (Early Childhood services) Regulations 2008 Reg 46
- Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood and Care Services 2008

Appendix 2: Infectious diseases for criterion HS26

<https://www.cph.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/med0129.pdf>