

# Exclusion Policy

## 2018

### National Quality Standard

2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
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### National Regulations

84	Awareness of child protection law
85	Incident, Injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, Injury, Illness and trauma record
88	Infectious Diseases

### Aim

Medowie Gumnut Preschool aims to provide a healthy and safe environment for the staff and children in their care. This policy follows the recommendations highlighted in the publication 'Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing infection and Diseases in Child Care' (5th Edition).

### Rationale

Children are particularly at risk of infection due to the following reasons:

1. They have close physical contact with a wide range of children and adults in closed spaces for a long period of time.

2. They may not have had previous exposure to many common infectious diseases.

3. They have prolonged contact with materials and objects that may carry infectious micro-organisms.

4. Infectious diseases are presenting in children at an earlier age than in the past, with young children more susceptible to various complications.

5. They are continually being introduced to new children who have their own set of pathogens.

6. Due to their age, children in preschool often contribute to the spread of infection.

Difficulty with toiling skills, lack of control over body secretions, the inability to correctly wash hands, blow nose and cough with mouth covered all provide a breeding ground for infectious diseases.

7. Some infectious agents pose a higher risk in a group care environment.

8. The risk of infection is increased in a group situation and strict hygiene practices need to be implemented. More so than in the home environment.

### Who is affected by this Policy?

- \* Management
- \* Educators
- \* Children
- \* Families
- \* Volunteers
- \* Students

## **Implementation**

### **Exclusions**

1. Medowie Gumnut Preschool has a 24 hour exclusion policy for general illnesses. This enables symptoms to subside, ensuring normal activity and diet can be reintroduced.
2. 24 hour exclusion after vomiting, diarrhoea or stomach upset means 24 hours clear from symptoms, after the reintroduction and tolerance of a full diet.
3. 24 hour exclusion after a fever/temperature means child's temperature has stayed at a normal level (36°C to 37°C) for 24 hours without the use of Panadol or any other agent.
4. 24 hour exclusion after medication means that a child is excluded for 24 hours after commencing a course of antibiotics or anti fungal treatment. This ensures the medication has begun taking effect.
5. Exclusion prevents transmission of disease and assists in the recovery of a sick child.
6. Each child and staff member must be well enough to attend and participate in normal activities.
7. Children requiring one on one care will need to remain at home until normal activities can be resumed.
8. Exclusion applies even if it has not been possible to provide a specific diagnosis for the illness.
9. Children who attend the centre with discharge from the nose or ears may be a source of infection. Staff will contact the parent/caregiver to discuss the issue and may request the child be excluded and medical advice sought.

### **Assessing Serious or Potentially Serious Infectious Disease**

1. Medowie Gumnut Preschool has the right to exclude any child or staff member who has an illness that may affect the health of others.
2. As a general principle, children should not be brought to the centre unless they are able to cope adequately with normal routines and activities.
3. The child should not be brought to the centre if they will expose others to unnecessary infection.
4. If a child does not have an infectious disease but exhibits any of the following signs they will be excluded:
  - a. Sleeps at unusual times of the day
  - b. Has a raised temperature that remains above 37.5°C or continues to rise further.
  - c. Is crying constantly as a result of discomfort due to illness.
  - d. Is reacting badly to medication.
  - e. Is in the need of constant one on one care.
5. If a child is sick or exhibits any of the above signs, staff need to be notified of the child's absence by 10am.
6. It is essential that infectious diseases are reported to the Director as soon as possible so that other parents/care givers can be notified.

7. Children are to be excluded in accordance with this health policy, the final decision rests with the Director as to whether the child is in a fit state to attend the centre or not.
8. Parents are required to collect their child within half an hour of being notified of the exclusion. If parents are unable to be contacted, the emergency contact will be called to collect the child.
9. Until the child is collected, staff will aim to exclude that child from the general play areas.

### Hygiene and Infection Control

Medowie Gumnut Preschool has a comprehensive policy that deals with the following issues:

1. Education of the children in hygiene practices
2. General hygiene procedures include the cleaning of the centre, correct disposal of rubbish, the universal precautions when dealing with bodily fluids and the covering of wounds.
3. Hand washing procedures are taught and encouraged.
4. Basic guide lines in the provision of first aid.

### Notification Procedures in Infectious Disease Cases

1. All parents will be notified of any common infectious diseases in the centre by signs placed on the desk near the sign in iPad, a bulk text message sent out to all families via Kid Soft, and a 'Community Announcement' posted onto Story Park.
2. Infectious Diseases that are notifiable to the Chief Health Officer of the Department of Health include:
  - \* Diphtheria
  - \* Haemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib)
  - \* Measles
  - \* Mumps
  - \* Poliomyelitis
  - \* Rubella
  - \* Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

### Specific Guidelines for the Exclusion of Sick Children

Condition	Exclusion of Child	Exclusion of Contacts
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytic)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Campylobacter</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Candidiasis</b>	See 'Thrush'	

Condition	Exclusion of Child	Exclusion of Contacts
<b>Chicken Pox (Varicella)</b>	Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in unimmunised children and less in immunised children.	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded.
<b>CMV (Cytomegalo virus)</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Cryptosporidium infection</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Diarrhoea (No organisms identified)</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Diphtheria</b>	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least 2 negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics followed by another swab 48 hours later.	Exclude contacts that live in the same house until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority
<b>German measles</b>	See 'Rubella'	
<b>Giardiasis</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Glandular fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Hand, foot and mouth disease</b>	Exclude until all blisters have dried.	Not excluded
<b>Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)</b>	Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	Not excluded
<b>Head Lice</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary if effective treatment is commenced prior to the next day at preschool	Not excluded
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before seven days after the onset of jaundice	Not excluded
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Hepatitis C</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)</b>	Exclusion not necessary if the person is developmentally capable of maintaining hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission. If the person is unable to comply with these practices they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered by a dressing where possible.	Not excluded

Condition	Exclusion of Child	Exclusion of Contacts
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary. If the person is severely immune compromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses.	Not excluded
<b>Hydatid disease</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Impetago (School Sores )</b>	Excluded until appropriate to return has been given by an appropriate health aiuthority.	Not excluded
<b>Influenza and influenza-like illnesses</b>	Exclude until well	Not excluded
<b>Legionnare's Disease</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Leprosy</b>	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority	Not excluded
<b>Measles</b>	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash	<p>Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded</p> <p>Non-immunised contacts of a case are to be excluded from child care until 14 days after the first day of the appearance of rash in the last case, unless immunised with 72 hours of first contact during the infectious period with the first case.</p> <p>All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case.</p>
<b>Meningitis (bacterial)</b>	Exclude until well and has received appropriate antibiotics	Not excluded
<b>Meningococcal Infection</b>	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded
<b>Molluscum contagiosum</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Mumps</b>	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded
<b>Norovirus</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded
<b>Parvovirus infection (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Pertussis</b>	See 'Whooping Cough'	

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Exclusion of Child</b>	<b>Exclusion of Contacts</b>
<b>Respiratory Syncytial</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Ringworm/Tinea</b>	Exclude until the day after appropriate anti fungal treatment has commenced	Not excluded
<b>Roseola</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Ross river virus</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Rotavirus infection</b>	Children to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Rubella (German Measles)</b>	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
<b>Salmonella Infection</b>	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded
<b>Scabies</b>	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded
<b>Scarlet fever</b>	See 'Streptococcal sore throat'	
<b>Shigella infection</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)</b>	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well.	Not excluded
<b>Thrush (candidiasis)</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Toxoplasmosis</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Tuberculosis (TB)</b>	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from an appropriate health authority	Not excluded
<b>Typhoid, Paratyphoid</b>	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from an appropriate health authority	Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities
<b>Varicella</b>	See 'chickenpox'	
<b>Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)</b>	Children are to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Warts</b>	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded

Condition	Exclusion of Child	Exclusion of Contacts
<b>Whooping cough (pertussis)</b>	Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment or for 21 days from the onset of coughing	Contacts that live in the same house as the case and have received less than 3 doses or pertussis vaccine are to be excluded from the centre until they have had 5 days of an appropriate course of antibiotics. If antibiotics have not been taken, these contacts must be excluded for 21 days after their last exposure to the case while the person was infectious.
<b>Worms</b>	Exclude if loose bowel motions present	Not excluded

**Please see the Director, Sharon, if you require further information re these exclusion requirements.**

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

1. The Director is to ensure the control measures listed in this policy are effectively implemented.
2. The Director must ensure that all staff are consulted and provided with the necessary instruction, training and supervision to ensure that the control measures are being effectively implemented.
3. The centre must review and evaluate the effectiveness of the control measures annually.
4. Staff are to implement proactive strategies and follow compulsory procedures

### **Sources**

- The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2018
- Staying Healthy in Child Care – Fourth Edition – 2005
- WorkCover NSW - [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au)
- Centre for Community Child Health - [www.rch.org.au](http://www.rch.org.au)
- National Health and Medical Research Council - [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)

### **Review**

**Last Reviewed:** July 2018

**Date for Next Review:** July 2019