

Infectious Diseases Policy

2018

National Quality Standard

2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2.3	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

National Regulations

88	Infectious Diseases
87	Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness

Aim

Medowie Gumnut Preschool to minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children, their families and staff by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or who are too ill to attend the centre.

The centre will use National Health and Medical Research Council. Staying Healthy in Child Care - 5th edition. Commonwealth of Australia 2012. Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion (attached to this policy) to exclude children and staff and inform parents of exclusion and non exclusion periods.

Who is affected by this Policy?

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

Implementation

To minimise the spread of infectious diseases between everyone associated with our service, we will inform the local public health unit of the following conditions:

- ◆ Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib);
- ◆ Hepatitis A;
- ◆ Hepatitis B (recent illness only);
- ◆ Measles;
- ◆ Meningococcal infection;
- ◆ Parvovirus B19 (if two or more cases);
- ◆ Pertussis;
- ◆ Roseola (if two or more children in one group are ill);
- ◆ Scarlet fever; and
- ◆ T B.

If a child develops symptoms while at Medowie Gumnut Preschool we will:

- ◆ Isolate the child from other children.
- ◆ Ensure the child is comfortable and supervised by staff.
- ◆ Contact the child's parent/guardian. If this person is unavailable we will contact the next nominated family person. We will inform you of the child's condition and ask for the family member to pick him/her up as quickly as possible.
- ◆ Ensure all bedding, towels and clothing which has been used by the child washed as per recommended guidelines in Staying Healthy in Child Care – 4th Ed. These items will be washed separately and if possible aired dry in the sun.
- ◆ Ensure all toys used by the child are washed.
- ◆ Ensure all eating utensils used by the child are separated and washed.
- ◆ Provide information in home languages to the best of our ability.
- ◆ Inform all Centre families of the presence of an infectious disease.
- ◆ Ensure confidentiality of any personal or health related information obtained by the Centre staff in related to any Centre family.

As per Regulation 88 - Infectious Diseases

If there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at an education and care service, the approved provider of the service must ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

If there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at a centre-based service, the approved provider of the service must ensure that a parent or an authorised emergency contact of each child being educated and cared for by the service is notified of the occurrence as soon as practicable.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FOR CHILD AND STAFF

If a child or staff member has been unable to attend the Centre because of an infectious illness the person must provide a doctors certificate which specifically states the child/staff member is well enough to return to the Centre.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend that childcare staff should be immunised against:

- ◆ Hepatitis A.
- ◆ Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR).

Childcare staff born during or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have antibodies for rubella, require vaccination.

- ◆ Varicella, if they have not previously been infected with chickenpox.
- ◆ Pertussis. An adult booster dose is especially important for those staff caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated.

Although the risk is low, staff who care for children with intellectual disabilities should seek advice about hepatitis B immunisation if the children are not immunised.

Sources

- Federal Department of Health - <http://www.health.gov.au>
- Immunisation Program Schedule - www.immunise.health.gov.au
- NHMRC. (2006). Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing infectious diseases in child care - 4th edition - http://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/transcripts/1302_healthy2.pdf
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 - <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/laws/ohs> Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2012 - <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2012/311/part7/div1/sec40?dq=Regulations%20under%20Public%20Health%20Act%202010%20No%20127>