



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Exclusion Policy

#### Policy Statement:

The centre will minimize the spread of infectious diseases between children and centre staff by conforming to the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) requirements for exclusion of children with infectious diseases, and other legislative requirements, such as the Public Health Act 1991 and The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992.

#### Rationale:

Exclusion of infectious children significantly reduces the risk of the spread of diseases to other healthy children and staff. Exclusion periods are recommended by the NHMRC based on the time a child is infectious to others.

#### Strategies, Practices and Procedures:

The centre is unable to care for children who are suffering from a contagious illness or high temperature (38°C or above). Under the Public Health Act 1991, staff will notify the Public Health Unit (phone number: 02 9382 8334) and provide any details of any known or suspected person with any of the following vaccine preventable diseases: Diphtheria, Measles, Mumps, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Rubella, Tetanus, Varicella, Hep A & B, meningococcal, pneumococcal, influenza, rotavirus.

Staff and Children will be excluded who:

- are acutely ill and may need to see a doctor.
- are too ill to participate in the centre's normal activities.
- may require extra supervision to the detriment of the care and safety of the child or other children.
- are ill from gastroenteritis or hepatitis A.
- have signs or symptoms of a possible infectious illness.

Other contagious diseases that require exclusion are:

high temperature	diarrhoea	conjunctivitis
measles	rubella	glandular fever
mumps	chicken pox	impetigo
vomiting	diphtheria	hand, foot and mouth disease
mucus coughing	whooping cough	infectious hepatitis
ring worm	thrush	throat and chest infections
live head lice	green mucus running from nose	

- Children who are not immunised, or who are homeopathically immunised must be excluded for the period of time set down by the Public Health Unit in the case of an outbreak of Diphtheria, Measles, Mumps, Poliomyelitis, Rubella, Tetanus or Whooping Cough or other vaccine preventable diseases.
- Families will be advised that when children have commenced treatment with a medication, the child should not attend the centre for at least the entire following day to ensure the child is recovering and that they won't have an adverse reaction to the medication.
- Any diarrhoea, vomiting or high temperature must be clear for at least one whole day before the child can return to the centre, to prevent the passing on of the infection to other children. Please note: if the vomiting, high temperature or diarrhoea episode occurs at the centre then the child cannot return to the centre the next day.
- The following infectious diseases require a clearance certificate from the Public Health Unit for readmission to the centre: diphtheria, tuberculosis, hepatitis A, typhoid, polio, paratyphoid infection. This applies to both staff and children.

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- A child who has had 2 loose bowel movements will need to be excluded from other children. Parents/emergency contacts will be called to collect the child.
- Children that attend the centre that have live, mature headlice present on their scalp must be collected immediately so that the lice are not transferred to other children. Children are able to attend the centre after their parents have treated their hair with products such as KP24 or Moove. Children that attend the centre that only have lice eggs visible in their hair need not be collected, but staff must inform parents so that they can remove the eggs as soon as possible.
- If a child becomes ill at the centre, they must be collected as soon as possible and excluded for the times set down by this policy (See table below).

Condition	Exclusion of cases	Exclusion of contacts
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude at least the entire following day.	Not excluded.
Campylobacter	Exclude at least the entire following day.	Not excluded.
Chicken pox	Exclude for at least 5 days AND until all blisters have dried	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise not excluded.
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased.	Not excluded.
Cytomegalovirus Infection	Exclusion not necessary.	Not excluded.
Diarrhoea	Exclude at least the entire following day.	Not excluded.
Diphtheria	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least two negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and the other 48 hours later.	Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority.
Glandular fever (mononucleosis)	Exclusion until medical certificate of recovery is received.	Not excluded.
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Until all blisters have dried.	Not excluded.
Haemophilus type b (Hib)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before seven days after the onset of jaundice or illness.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis B	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis C	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.
Herpes ("cold sores")	Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible.	Not excluded.
Hookworm	Exclusion not necessary.	Not excluded.
Human immun.- deficiency virus infection (HIV AIDS virus)	Exclusion is not necessary unless the child has a secondary infection.	Not excluded.
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing.	Not excluded.
Influenza and influenza like illnesses	Exclusion until medical certificate of recovery is received.	Not excluded.
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority.	Not excluded.
Measles	Exclude for at least four days after onset of rash.	Immunised contacts not excluded. Unimmunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If unimmunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hours of their first contact with the first case they may return to school.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received.	Not excluded.
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed.	Not excluded if receiving rifampicin.

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Molluscum contagiosum	Exclusion not necessary.	Not excluded.
Mumps	Exclude for nine days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).	Not excluded.
Parvovirus (erythema infectiosum fifth disease)	Exclusion not necessary.	Not excluded.
Poliomyelitis	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re-admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery.	Not excluded.
Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (lice), trachoma	Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.	Not excluded.
Rubella (german measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of rash.	Not excluded.
Salmonella, Shigella	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received.	Not excluded.
Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the person feels well.	Not excluded.
Tuberculosis	Exclude until a medical certificate from an appropriate health authority is received.	Not excluded.
Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever)	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority.	Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities.
Whooping cough	Exclude the child for five days after starting antibiotic treatment.	Exclude unimmunised household contacts aged less than 7 years for 14 days after the last exposure to infection or until they have taken five days of a 10-day course of antibiotics. (Exclude close child care contacts until they have commenced antibiotics).
Worms (intestinal)	Exclude if diarrhoea present. Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded.

- Staff are to inform parents when there is an outbreak of infectious disease at the centre. Information on the infection or disease will be placed in the front foyer which will inform parents on the description, incubation period, infectious period, treatment, controlling the spread of the information and the responsibilities of child care providers and parents. The factsheets used will be copies from Staying Healthy. Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early childhood Education and Care Services. 5th Ed. NHMRC 2012.
- Staff will be aware that conflicts and difficulties may arise when negotiating with families and interpreting medical certificates due to:
  1. Families finding exclusion requirements difficult because of pressures to meet work and other personal commitments.
  2. Families may present doctors certificates of fitness for a child to attend care that the staff consider inconsistent with the situation at the time.

**If a child has not been immunised, they may be excluded from care during outbreaks of some infectious diseases, even if their child is well, depending on advice from the Public Health Unit.**

**The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.**

### Measuring Tools:

Illness Register

### Links to Other Policies:

Parent Handbook

Exclusion Policy

Occupational Health and Safety Policy

Hygiene Policy

Immunisation Policy

Staff Immunisation Policy

Watching and Recording Illness in Children Policy

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**Policy Created:** March 2010  
**Policy Reviewed:** **March 2017**  
**Policy Review Date:** March 2018

**Sources:**

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care Quality Areas 2, 4 and 7  
Public Health Act 1991

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992

NSW Immunisation Schedule 2005, NSW Public Health Unit 2005

Staying Healthy. Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early childhood Education and Care Services. 5th Ed. NHMRC  
2012.

[nhmrc.publications@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:nhmrc.publications@nhmrc.gov.au) accessed August 2015

[www.chw.edu.au/parents/factsheets/feverj.htm](http://www.chw.edu.au/parents/factsheets/feverj.htm) accessed August 2015