

Infectious Diseases Policy and Exclusion from Care Guideline

Published	April 2021
Review Date	December 2022
Sources	<p>Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2020</p> <p>Education and Care Services National Law, February 2018</p> <p>Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017</p> <p>Guide to the National Quality Framework, January 2020</p> <p>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and Regulations 2001 (NSW)</p> <p>Public Health Act 1991 (NSW)</p> <p>Staying Healthy: Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), 5th Edition 2012</p> <p>https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf</p>

Aim:

To ensure all relevant Educators, staff, children and parents/guardians are familiar with the procedures to reduce the spread of infectious diseases within the Out of Hours School Care.

Explanation:

Children are often infectious before symptoms appear. Therefore, it is important for Educators to operate with good hygiene practices at all times. Excluding sick children, Educators and staff is one of the most important ways, together with good hygiene and immunisation of limiting the spread of infection within the service. The spread of certain infectious diseases can be reduced by excluding a person who is known to be infectious from contact with others who are at risk of catching the infection.

It is important that Educators and staff act appropriately, and with sensitivity when dealing with a child and family where there has been an outbreak of an infectious disease.

Educators, Co-ordination Unit Staff and parents/guardians need to be informed about the range of infectious diseases that are common in early childhood settings. This information is contained in the Exclusion from Care Guideline from Staying Healthy in Childcare, which is attached to this policy.

Responsibilities:

In relation to the Approved Provider & Co-ordination Unit Staff:

- Abide by their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Law, Education and Care Services National Regulations and the National Quality Standard in relation to the prevention of infectious diseases
- Provide information and resources to Educators on how to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases
- Model safe hygiene practices to Educators and children where possible
- Ensure practices are implemented that aim to prevent the spread of infectious diseases

- Report any occurrence of an immune preventable disease to the Department of Health Infectious Diseases Unit
- Report any incidences of an outbreak of an infectious illness to the department of Public Health Unit in Goulburn (02) 4824 1837

In relation to Educators:

- Abide by their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Law, Education and Care Services National Regulations and the National Quality Standard in relation to the prevention of infectious diseases
- Implement good hygiene practices that aim to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including daily cleaning
- Ensure that handwashing by all attending the service is regularly practised
- Ensure that they protect themselves from infections that are vaccine preventable or that may be contracted due to poor hygiene practices
- Seek advice on health matters including immunisation
- Exclude children from care that are sick or have an infectious disease
- Complete the Accident/Illness/Trauma/Near Miss Report form for any child/ren that have been sent home from care
- Record any illness in the Illness/Absence Record for any illness that occurred whilst the child was in care, or if the child was kept at home due to illness
- In the event of an outbreak take reasonable steps to ensure the further spread of the infection is minimised through the implementation of additional hygiene and cleaning practices
- Notify parents of the outbreak of an infectious disease as soon as is practicable

In relation to families:

- Keep children home from care if they are sick or have had an outbreak of an infectious disease
- Promptly pick up a sick or infectious child that has become ill whilst in care
- Provide a Doctor's Certificate for their child if requested by the service before returning to care
- Notify the Service if their child has been diagnosed with an immune preventable disease e.g. whooping cough, measles or rubella
- Communicate with the service about their child's health and wellbeing
- Notify the service if their child is being tested for an infectious disease

Continual Monitoring and Improvement:

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

- Incidental and planned consultation with families
- Approved Provider and Co-ordination Unit Staff accessing current relevant information
- Approved Provider, Co-ordination Unit Staff and Educators accessing current and relevant training
- Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

Policy Review

Date Revised	Comments
May 2016	Scheduled Policy Review- No changes made
October 2019	Scheduled Policy Review – Updated to ensure following best practices
April 2021	Scheduled Policy Review – Updated sources

Exclusion Periods for Infectious Diseases

Condition	Exclusion of Case	Exclusion of Contacts
<i>Campylobacter</i> infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Candidiasis (thrush)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	Not excluded	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis	Not excluded
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Diarrhoea (no organism identified)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Fungal infections of the skin or nails (e.g. ringworm, tinea)	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment	Not excluded
Giardiasis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Glandular fever (mononucleosis, Epstein-Barr virus [EBV] infection)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried	Not excluded
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)	Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice
Head lice (pediculosis)	Not excluded if effective treatment begins before the next day at the education and care service The child does not need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group

Condition	Exclusion of Case	Exclusion of Contacts
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received and until at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group
Hepatitis B	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hepatitis C	Not excluded	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group
Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)	Not excluded if the person can maintain hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission If the person cannot comply with these practices (e.g. because they are too young), they should be excluded until the sores are dry Sores should be covered with a dressing, where possible	Not excluded
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Not excluded If the person is severely immune compromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group
Human parvovirus B19 (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hydatid disease	Not excluded	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing	Not excluded
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until person is well	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group

Condition	Exclusion of Case	Exclusion of Contacts
Listeriosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
Measles	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash	Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded For non-immunised contacts, contact a public health unit for specialist advice All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the appearance of the rash in the last case
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about antibiotics and/or vaccination for people who were in the same room as the case
Molluscum contagiosum	Not excluded	Not excluded
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded
Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded
Pertussis (whooping cough)	Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the onset of coughing	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated contacts, or antibiotics
Pneumococcal disease	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Roseola	Not excluded	Not excluded
Ross River virus	Not excluded	Not excluded
Rotavirus infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded

Condition	Exclusion of Case	Exclusion of Contacts
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until the person has fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
Salmonellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Scabies	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate treatment	Not excluded
Shigellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well	Not excluded
Toxoplasmosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from the appropriate health authority	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about screening, antibiotics or specialist TB clinics
Varicella (chickenpox)	Exclude until all blisters have dried—this is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in non- immunised 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 as they are at high risk of developing severe disease Otherwise, not excluded
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours ^b	Not excluded
Worms	Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring Exclusion is not necessary if treatment has occurred	Not excluded