



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

## 1.0 PURPOSE

To minimise the spread of infection.

## 2.0 PERSONS IMPACTED BY THIS POLICY

This policy applies to all company employees, students, children, families and visitors.

### Most Relevant Policies, Documents and Forms

- Medical Conditions Policy
- Child Wellbeing and Oral Health Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy



### 3.0 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
ILLNESS	A disease or period of sickness affecting the body or mind.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE	Organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites in and on our bodies. Under certain conditions, some organisms may cause disease. Some infectious diseases can be passed from person to person.

### 4.0 OVERVIEW

The Company will provide a safe and healthy environment whilst taking every precaution to limit the spread of infection, disease and illnesses within the Service. The successful management of infection, disease and illness in the service will require full cooperation from all stakeholders.


### 5.0 INFECTION CONTROL

Prevention of infectious diseases high priority and we will ensure

- All areas, resources and surfaces are cleaned on a regular cycle as per the cleaning schedules.
- Food grade cleaning materials are available in kitchenettes in line with food safety standards.
- Toilets and toilet areas are disinfected twice per day or more frequently as needed
- Children’s resources and equipment will be sanitised at least daily or more frequently as needed.
- Mouthed toys are immediately removed and disinfected before further use. All small toys in the 0-2 room will be disinfected at least daily.
- Outdoor equipment is thoroughly cleaned every six months.
- Tables, chairs, and highchairs are cleaned with warm soapy water after each meal.
- Floors are swept after each meal and mopped daily after lunch and at the end of the day.
- Children’s beds are cleaned after each use, children will not share beds or bedding and beds are stored in a way to allow ventilation. At no time will made up beds be stacked in a way that sheets are touching each other.
- Cots are cleaned with sheets changed between children.
- Cot sheets are washed weekly or more frequently if soiled.
- Dummies are labelled with the child’s name, stored in individually labelled containers and cleaned if dropped.
- Children are never to share cups, utensils or plates.
- Face washers, tissues and bibs will never be shared between children.

### 6.0 IF A CHILD SHOWS SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS AT THE SERVICE

1. Separate the child where possible in a comfortable and quiet area. Comfort them to reduce distress.
2. Take and record the child’s temperature. The normal temperature for a child is up to 38 degrees. Refer to “Staying Healthy” page 32; **what to do if a child has a fever.**

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3. Call parents and inform them of the suspected illness, requesting they collect their child if appropriate or if the illness is suspected to be contagious.
  4. Continue to re-assess and record the child's condition on the *Child Incident, Illness, Trauma and Injury Record*.
  5. If parents or emergency contacts are unable to collect the child and the child has a high temperature, offer the child water, remove layers of clothing and sponge with a cool face washer until parent or emergency contact arrives. If child deteriorates, call 000.
  6. The illness will be recorded on the "*Children's Illness Register*" and notify the State Health Department if the illness is confirmed to be a notifiable illness.
  7. A medical clearance is required for the child to return to the service. Children will be unable to return prior to the date on a medical clearance even if they are feeling better. Duty of care to all stakeholders will always be our priority.

## 7.0 MEDICAL CLEARANCES

Please note that medical clearances will not be accepted from a pharmacy

## 8.0 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If a child or educator is suspected to have a communicable disease;

1. Exclusion will apply until a medical clearance states that they are fit to return to the service. Exclusion periods will be as per the NHMRC Recommended Period of Exclusion list unless further direction has been given by the State Health Department.
2. All stakeholders will be notified that there is a suspected case of a communicable disease and updated if it is confirmed or otherwise.
3. A notice will be placed in public view at the service, informing the occurrence of the illness with symptoms, exclusion time and will state whether there is a suspected or confirmed case.
4. All unimmunised children or educators will be contacted to inform them of a contagious disease as per the exclusion guidelines for unimmunised children and adults.
5. Services may require deep cleaning by a professional cleaning company in the case of an outbreak of a contagious disease. The Nominated Supervisor will discuss this with their People and Quality Leader (PQL).

## 9.0 TRAVEL

Where travel may increase the likelihood of contracting a communicable disease (e.g. COVID-19), all stakeholders are encouraged to disclose any travel arrangements or travel by close family or friends. The service may request a medical clearance or self-isolation as per State Health Department recommendations.



## 10.0 STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

State Health department recommendations will always override all other recommendations or guidelines.

### Sourced

Staying Healthy 5th Edition, 2012

[ACECQA](#): Guide to the National Quality Framework

[www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)

## 11.0 VERSION CONTROL

LIVE DATE	MARCH 2020	LIVE DATE	MARCH 2021
PREPARED BY:	EDUCATION AND QUALITY		

### Related Legislation

- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Education and Care Services National Law Act