



CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

The spread of infections in a school environment is facilitated by microbial contamination of the environment, as well as the greater exposure to young children who are still developing hygienic behaviours and habits. Our OSHC Service will minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases by adhering to all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases, promoting practices that reduce the transmission of infection, ensuring the exclusion of sick children and educators, and implementing effective hygiene practices.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of Medication Policy Family Communication Policy Hand Washing Policy Health and Safety Policy Immunisation Policy	Incident, Illness, Accident & Trauma Policy Medical Conditions Policy Physical Environment Policy Sick Children Policy Work Health and Safety Policy
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PURPOSE

Children encounter many other children and adults within the OSHC Service environment which can result in the contraction of infectious illnesses. Our Service has a duty of care to ensure that children families, educators, and visitors of the Service are provided with a high level of protection during the Service's operational hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, and visitors of the OSHC Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

IMMUNISATION REQUIREMENTS FROM JANUARY 2016

- Only parents of children (less than 20 years of age) who are fully immunised or are on a recognised catch-up schedule can receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement.
- The relevant vaccinations are those under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), which covers the vaccines usually administered before age five. These vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).
- Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases will continue to be exempt from the requirements.
- Conscientious objection and vaccination objection on non-medical grounds is no longer be a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.

Refer to Immunisation Policy for more information.

Management will ensure

- That all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority.
- The implementation of recommendations from *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services*.

- Children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the OSHC Service.
- They collect, maintain, and appropriately store the required enrolment documents and enrolment information, including health and immunisation records of children in the OSHC Service.

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure:

- A hygienic environment is maintained.
- Cleaning charts are completed each day and signed by Educators.
- Children are supported in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine.
- Educators and Staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves.
- Information is collected on enrolment and maintained regarding each child's immunisation status, and any medical conditions.
- Families are provided with relevant sourced materials and information on infectious diseases, health, and hygiene including:
 - The current Victorian Immunisation Schedule.
 - Exclusion guidelines in the event of an infectious illness at the OSHC Service for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all their immunisations.
 - Advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any specific infectious illnesses that are suspected/present in the OSHC Service or greater school community.
- Families are provided with information about an infectious disease by displaying and emailing the Infectious Diseases Notification Form and details.
- That an illness record form is completed no later than 24 hours of an illness occurring.
- All educators are mindful and maintain confidentiality of individual children's medical circumstances.
- Children's enrolment records are updated with regards to immunisation as required, (i.e. as children reach age milestones for immunisation), or at least once each year.
- Staff are advised of the recommended immunisations for people working with children.
- Educators are familiar with procedures for exclusion of Educators as well as children in the event of an infectious illness occurring at the OSHC Service.
- That opportunities for educators to source pertinent up to date information from trusted sources on the prevention of infectious diseases and maintaining health and hygiene are provided.
- To notify and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding infectious diseases as required.

- Children do not attend the OSCHC Service if they are unwell. If a child has been sick they must be well for 24hrs before returning to the Service. For example, if a child is absent due to illness or is sent home due to illness they will be unable to attend the next day as a minimum. The Nominated Supervisor may approve the child's return to the OSCHC Service if families provide a doctor's certificate/clearance certifying that the child is no longer contagious and is in good health.
- To complete the register of illness and/or document incidents of infectious diseases. Some diseases require the state authority to be notified.
- Cleaning sponges are colour coded so that a separate sponge is used for food surfaces, dirty dishes, and art and craft.
- Toys and equipment that are hard to clean will be washed with detergent and air-dried in sunlight.
- Washable toys and equipment will be washed in detergent and hot water or the dishwasher and aired to dry (toys will not be washed in the dishwasher at the same time as dishes).
- Furnishings, fabric tablecloths and other fabric items will be laundered at the end of each fortnight and hung out to dry. During an outbreak of illness in the OSCHC Service, laundering will occur at least weekly, and where possible fabric items/toys will be removed until the outbreak is under control.
- Tables and floor surfaces will be cleaned on a daily basis after each meal and at the end of each day.
- Toilets/bathrooms are cleaned daily by the contracted cleaner.

Educators will ensure:

- That any child suspected of having an infectious illness is responded to, and their health and emotional needs supported at all times.
- Appropriate health and safety procedures are implemented when treating ill children.
- Families are aware of the need to collect their unwell child/ children as soon as practicable.
- Families are advised that they must need to alert the OSCHC service if their child is diagnosed with an infectious illness.
- Opportunities are provided for children to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice.
- The Service adheres to health and hygiene practices including:
 - hand washing
 - daily cleaning of the service
 - wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids)
 - Appropriate and hygienic handling and preparation of food.
- That a weekly clean is carried out on other surfaces that may transmit germs such as doorknobs, low shelving, etc. This will be increased if an outbreak has been recorded in the Service.

- That if a child has a toileting accident, the items are placed in a plastic bag with the child's name on it. The plastic bag will be stored in a sealed container labelled 'soiled/wet clothing' for parents to take home.

Families will:

- Advise the OSCHC Service of their child's immunisation status, by providing approved written documentation for the Service to copy and place in the child's file.
- Advise the OSCHC Service when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated to ensure that immunisation and medical records are up to date.

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Department of Human Resources: National Immunisation Program Schedule: <https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program>

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2017).

Medicare Australia (Department of Human Services): <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/medicare>

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012). *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.*

No Jab No Play: <https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/no-jab-no-pay-new-requirements-fact-sheet>

Public Health Act 2010

Public Health Amendment Act 2017

Public Health Regulation 2012

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	July 2019	Ratified by the Kingsbury Primary School Council on 15/08/19	NEXT REVIEW DATE	July 2020
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