



LIWARA CATHOLIC OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Our service aims to provide a safe, healthy environment in which children can grow and learn. Effective hygiene and infection control procedures, that are part of the routine for both children and staff, will reduce the risk of illness for children, workers, volunteers and visitors.

Any person with a known infectious disease or with symptoms of an infectious illness will be excluded from the service.

RATIONALE

By implementing strict exclusion guidelines, infection control and hygiene procedures we aim to reduce the incidence of ill health for children, staff and families. In addition to improving physical safety and comfort, reducing the incidence and spread of infectious diseases provides children with the greatest opportunity to participate fully in our program. It also reduces the number of days impacted by illness for staff and families of children attending the service. Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations (2012) services must take reasonable precautions to minimise the spread of infectious diseases.

PROCEDURES

Immunisation

A record of each child's immunisation status must be maintained by the service.

All Educators will be advised upon appointment to the position to maintain their immunity to common childhood diseases, tetanus and Hepatitis B through immunisation with their local health professional.

Infection Control Procedures

Standard precautions that assist in minimising the risk of cross infection and providing a basic level of infection control will be implemented across the service. Children and staff will be encouraged to adopt good personal hygiene procedures, of which will include:

- Regular hand washing (See hand washing guidelines displayed)
- All staff working at our service including volunteers and students are expected to follow the procedures outlined in our Health and Hygiene Policy.
- All staff dealing with open sores, cuts and bodily fluids with any child or adult shall wear disposable gloves.
- Staff with cuts, open wounds or skin disease such as dermatitis should cover their wounds and wear disposable gloves.
- Disposable gloves will be properly and safely discarded and staff are to wash their hands after doing so.
- If a child has an open wound it will be covered with a waterproof dressing and securely attached.
- If bodily fluids or blood gets on the skin but there is no cut or puncture, staff are requested to wash away with hot soapy water.

(See Health and Hygiene Policy and Staying Healthy In Child Care for more detailed information)

Notifications

If there is an occurrence of infectious disease at the service a parent or authorised emergency contact of any child with a compromised immune system will be notified by telephone as soon as practicable.

If there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service notifications will be displayed and information in regard to the illness made available to parents and anyone else entering the service.

The Department of Health will be notified if any child contracts a vaccine-preventable disease. The nominated supervisor will at all times follow the recommendations as outlined by the Department of Health.

Exclusion

Non-immunised children may also be excluded from the service if there is an outbreak of an infectious disease against which the child has not been immunised. This measure aims to protect both the child and the other children and staff attending the service to help prevent the further spread of infection.

Children and Staff with diarrhoea will be excluded for 24 hours after the symptoms have disappeared or after a normal stool. This includes siblings of children attending the service.

Conjunctivitis is contagious and children and staff may be excluded from the service should they display any signs and symptoms of the disease.

The decision to exclude or re-admit a child or staff member will be the responsibility of the nominated supervisor based on the child's symptoms, medical opinion and Department of Health guidelines for children who have an infectious disease or who have been exposed to an infectious disease.

The nominated supervisor or staff members have the right to refuse access if concerned about the child's health.

A doctor's clearance certificate will be required for all infectious diseases such as measles, mumps diphtheria, hepatitis A, polio, tuberculosis, typhoid and paratyphoid before returning to the service.

When deciding whether to exclude an enrolled child or other person who is suspected of suffering from an infectious disease, the supervising officer will have regard to the guidelines set out in the document, *Communicable Disease – Guidelines for Teachers, Child Care Workers, Local Government Authorities and Medical Practitioners 2017*.

Where symptoms of an infectious illness present while a child is in attendance at the service, or while a child is on an excursion from the service, the child will be made comfortable as per our service's policy entitled *Children who are unwell* and a parent or emergency contact will be notified and required to collect the child immediately.

It is the responsibility of a parent to notify the service should a child be diagnosed with an infectious illness and to ensure the child does not return to the service until well and the required exclusion period has been complied with.

A parent may be required to supply a medical clearance from a medical practitioner before a child is allowed to return to care.

Bookings and fees

Payment of fees will be required for children during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, unless other arrangements, discussed and agreed to by service management have been made.

REFERENCES

Education and Care Services National Regulations (WA) 2012

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (2017), *The Guide to the National Quality Standard*, ACECQA

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (2017), *The Guide to the Education and Care Services Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations*, ACECQA

Education and Care Regulatory Unit <http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/education-and-care/Pages/default.aspx>

Communicable Diseases Guidelines for Teachers, Child Care Workers, Local Government Authorities and Medical Practitioners, Department of Health, Western Australia 2010.

Staying Healthy in Child Care, Preventing infectious diseases in child care, fifth edition, National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Government, 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- National Regulation 85 "*Incident, Injury and illness policies and procedures*"
- National regulation 86 "*Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness*"
- Incident 87 "*Incident, Injury, trauma and illness record*".
- National Regulation 88 "*Infectious diseases*"
- Staying Healthy in Child Care (5thEdition)
- Service "Hygiene" policy.

Review History		
Previous Review	Year of Review	Next Review
	May 2018	May 2019
May 2018	April 2020	April 2021