



Exclusion Policy

Date adopted:

Date last reviewed:
January 2021

Reviewed by:
Board of Management.

Date of next review:
January 2023

Policy context:

This policy relates to:

National Quality Standards.	QA2 Children's health and safety Standard 2.1 <i>Health</i> Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted. Element 2.1.2 <i>Health practices and procedures</i> Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
Legislation/Act.	National Regulations Regulations 88, 168

Documents related to this policy

Related policies	WI - Management of Children With Cuts & Lesions. Infectious Diseases Policy
Forms or other organisational documents	
References	Staying Healthy in Childcare 5 th Ed 2012 http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch55_staying_healthy_childcare_5th_edition_0.pdf

Policy Review:

Policy review frequency: This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Organisations Review Policy.	Responsibility for review: The Board of Management.
Where appropriate staff will be part of the review process.	
Documentation and communication: Policy documentation to be held in Policy and Procedure manuals. Where appropriate copies of new or reviewed policies will be given to staff, volunteers and families.	

Purpose

To protect children and educators from exposure, cross infection and contraction of infectious diseases.

Rationale

Meet the legislation requirements of Department of Health.
Meet the licensing guidelines.

Procedure

- Follow Department of Health guidelines in regard to infectious diseases such as chicken pox, impetigo, measles, etc. (See Exclusion Table).

- If an outbreak of any of the above occurs infected and non-immunised children to be excluded according to guidelines.
- Children are to be excluded (for 24 hours) after a bout of diarrhoea at the Centre, with the exception of "loose motions" as a result of antibiotic medication.
- Children are to be excluded (for 24 hours) after bout of vomiting at the Centre, unless a letter from a physician outlines other medical condition not requiring exclusion.
- Ring parent/primary caregiver or emergency contact as required.
- Inform families of an outbreak of any of the above and headlice in writing and large display at door.
- If children have a bout of vomiting or diarrhoea within twenty four hours prior to attending pre-school they are to be excluded.
- A child will be excluded during the first 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.
- In the event of conjunctivitis a medical certificate stating that the child is non infectious will be required before the child can be permitted to return. The above condition can be chemical, allergic, viral or bacterial.
- As with all conditions, exclusion for the required time will be adhered to or the child may return with a doctor's certificate of clearance as non infectious.
- Child's fitness to attend will be at the discretion of the Manager/Supervisor/First Aid Qualified Staff despite a certificate of clearance by a doctor. Any unresolved issues should be directed to the local Public Health Unit.

Table 1.1 Recommended minimum exclusion periods

Condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts^a
<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
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	Not excluded
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	Not excluded
Human parvovirus B19 (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Not excluded	Not excluded

Condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts^a
Hydatid disease	Not excluded	Not excluded
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	Not excluded
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
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

Condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts^a
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

a The definition of 'contacts' will vary according to the disease—refer to the specific fact sheet for more information.

b If the cause is unknown, possible exclusion for 48 hours until the cause is identified. However, educators and other staff who have a food handling role should always be excluded until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours. Adapted from SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/ygw/index.htm>. Note that exclusion advice is consistent with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia Series of National Guidelines (SoNGs), where available.

Some diseases—such as pertussis, typhoid, tuberculosis, meningococcal disease and hepatitis A—can cause concern among parents and sometimes interest from the media. Education and care services should consult their local public health unit, which can provide support and education in the event of a concerning disease.