



General Rules for Infection Control

Date adopted:

Date last reviewed:
22/11/2021

Reviewed by:
Board of Management.

Date of next review:
22/11/2023

Policy context:

This policy relates to:

National Quality Standards.	Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety Element 2.1.2 <i>Health practices and procedures</i> Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
Legislation/Act.	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Work Health and Safety Act 2012 and Regulations 2012 (NSW), Public Health Act 1991 (NSW).

Documents related to this policy

Related policies	Workplace Instruction – Hand Washing Routine Workplace Instruction – When Hand Washing Should Be Undertaken Workplace Instruction – Service Routine for Cleaning Equipment
Forms or other organisational documents	Cleaning Schedule Table Kitchen Cleaning Roster
References	Health - Safety In Children's Centre's Model Policies & Practices 2003 Staying Healthy in Child Care 5 th Ed 2012, www.health.gov.au NHMRC www.health.gov.au

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.

Goal

The Centre will minimise the spread and risks of infectious diseases in the child care setting by using standard infection control precautions against transmission of infection.

Background

Using standard infection control precautions will reduce the occurrence and risks of infectious disease, especially in the child care setting where risks of transmission of infectious diseases is higher than in other work or community settings. These guidelines outline policies and practices for specific activities and aspects of the child care environment, and following is a summary of some of the key infection control precautions for the child care setting.

Procedure

To minimise the spread and risks of infectious disease in the child care setting by using standard infection control precautions, the Centre should:

(This is a summary of key points only - centre should refer to the other relevant sections of these guidelines for more specific detail.)

- Be aware that transmission of infectious diseases, especially respiratory and diarrhoeal infections, occurs more frequently in the child care environment because of the close contact between a large number of children and staff, and that using standard infection control precautions and these Guidelines will reduce transmission and risks.
- Be aware that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are more at risk of some infectious diseases, especially respiratory, diarrhoeal and ear infections and their complications. It is important to ensure infection control precautions are followed to reduce risks in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and other children at special risk.
- Ensure children, staff, volunteers and visitors wash hands correctly with soap and running water. Dry hands with paper towels, or automatic hand-dryer upon arriving and leaving the centre and other situations where appropriate. (See Hand washing procedure.)
- Ensure staff and visitors also use additional barriers such as non-latex single use (disposable) gloves where appropriate.
- Regularly clean the indoor environment of the centre. Clean daily the toilet, nappy change areas, food preparation areas, taps, door handles, flush handles, nappy change surfaces and benches. Use PH neutral detergent and water (neutral detergents are available commercially and are labelled as being "neutral" or "neutral pH").
- Regularly wash and clean toys and play equipment, and wash daily, toys that have or are likely to have been mouthed by children or contaminated with faeces or urine.
- Launder daily all soiled linen, towels, facecloths and clothing. Children's sheets are laundered at home.
- Be aware that transmission of infection is more likely to occur when infants and children who are not toilet trained are mixed with children who are toilet trained. Ensure that adequate hand washing is undertaken when groups have been mixed.
- Ensure that children and staff do not share brushes, combs, toothbrushes, bottles, dummies, towels, facecloths, and handkerchiefs.
- Use high absorbency disposable nappies in preference to cloth nappies, especially during outbreaks of diarrhoeal illness.
- Ensure safe storage, disposal or laundering of soiled nappies e.g. external bin not accessible to children.
- Use only non-latex (e.g. vinyl, neoprene) gloves where practicable, and if using single use (disposable) gloves.
- Ensure Centre staff always wear gloves where they are likely to be exposed to blood, faeces, urine, or other body fluids, including any activity where there might be contact with a child's mucous membranes such as the nose, mouth or genital areas, or when handling any items or materials that have come into contact with blood or body fluids.
- Encourage staff to be fully immunised and encourage families to maintain the immunisation of their children. Maintain a record of both staff and children's immunisations, and in particular staff and

children who are not fully immunised in order to take appropriate action during outbreaks of vaccine preventable disease.

- Separate acutely ill children from well children and keep under supervision until they can be picked up by their family or nominated responsible person.
- In an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, exclude children from the Centre who are not immunised or are too young to have been immunised on advice from the local Public Health Unit until the contagious stage is finished.
- Exclude children who have respiratory infection, diarrhoea, any vaccine preventable disease, a transmissible skin infection not yet being treated, or any other infectious disease.
- Exclude and advise the parent or family to take their child to their doctor any child centre staff considers acutely unwell, to have potential serious disease or a potential infectious disease, or will be unable to participate in normal activities to the detriment of their safety or other children's safety.
- If using needles, other sharps, giving injections or administering medications which are likely to be contaminated by blood or body fluids, handle and dispose in accordance with infection control standards.
- Medical equipment used for individual staff or children must not be used for any other person and must be cleaned, disinfected or sterilised after each use and in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- When administering medicines use either the child's own medicine cup or syringe or a single use disposable cup or a disposable syringe.
- When taking temperatures we use a Braun Thermoscan Thermometer with single use ear pieces.
- Clean blood and body fluid spills according to standard infection control precautions – PH neutral cleanser and water.
- For staff, children or visitors who are injured, sick or have been exposed to blood or body fluids, take the appropriate actions according to these guidelines
- Keep up to date information in relevant community languages about infectious diseases, to provide education and advice to culturally and Linguistically Diverse families.
- Be aware of the NOHSC National Consensus on Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection /Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and the Workplace and its' guidelines for employers about elements of the policy including discrimination against employees with HIV infection. It is unlawful to discriminate against, treat unfairly or harass a person because they have an infectious disease, including Hepatitis A, B, or C; or if they are living with HIV/AIDS; or if they have an airborne disease such as Tuberculosis.