



Infectious Diseases Policy

Cobbler Creek Out of School Hours Care and Vacation Care will follow preventative procedures and exclusion guidelines to assist in minimising the spread of infectious diseases within the service.

General

The service will act to prevent the spread of infectious diseases by:

- Encourage effective hand washing techniques
- Providing appropriate hand washing facilities and supplies (as outlined in the Nutrition Policy).
- Providing appropriate first aid supplies (as outlined in the Administration of First Aid Policy).
- Ensuring current information about infectious diseases is held at the service.
- Providing information to families regarding infectious diseases and exclusion from the service.
- Notifying families when an infectious disease has occurred at the service.
- Excluding children from the service who are suffering from an infectious disease.

The Director is Responsible for:

Ensuring that the service is following correct practices and procedures to minimise the spread of infection by:

- Regularly sanitising and cleaning all kitchen equipment (included on daily checklists)
- Ensuring all toys, games and equipment used are regularly washed and sanitised and documented with date on cleaning checklist.
- Ensure there is no sharing of drinking / eating utensils.
- Ensuring the service holds information on specific diseases and exclusion periods and this information is available to educators and families
- Ensuring the service documents are all current and available.
- Ensuring that any updates to the documents are made available to educators in a timely fashion.
- Ensuring that information regarding the services policy on exclusion of children with infectious diseases is made available to families via the service's website, along with the recommendation that families keep children who are unwell at home.

Infectious Diseases

In the event that an educator suspects that a child arriving at the service is suffering from an infectious disease:

- The Educator will approach the Director or Assistant Director for a second opinion
- If the Director also suspects the child is suffering from an infectious disease, he/she will advise the person signing in the child that the child is suspected of suffering from an infectious disease and request that the child be removed from the service until a medical practitioner has determined that the child is not suffering from an infectious disease.

- The child has completed the applicable exclusion period as outlined in the current edition of Staying Healthy in Child Care
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>
- In the event that an Educator suspects that a child in attendance at the service is suffering from an infectious disease:
 - the child will be removed from the main group and taken to a separate area, where the Educator will further assess the child's current health condition and maintain surveillance whilst making the child comfortable.
 - The Educator will refer to Staying Healthy in Child Care for details on symptoms the child is presenting with (but will not officially make a diagnosis but can however present the symptoms to the family and indicate that other children with similar symptoms have been diagnosed with a similar condition).
- An Educator will contact the family or, if unsuccessful, the emergency contacts in order of priority and advise the emergency contact of the child's condition and request that the emergency contact make immediate arrangements to collect the child from the service.
- In an event where the child does not have to be collected immediately, precautions as described in Staying Healthy in Child Care will be implemented.
- In the event that a child with an infectious disease has attended the service, the director will:
 - Ensure that the families of children in attendance that day, or any other previous day the child has attended and may have been infectious are notified as soon as practicable. Confidentiality will be maintained and only the name and nature of the infectious disease will be disclosed.
 - Ensure that the information regarding the infectious disease is available to families.
 - Ensure information regarding the occurrence and nature of the infectious disease is prominently displayed next to the sign in area.
 - Ensure that documentation regarding the infectious disease and the actions taken by the service comply with Regulations.

National Regulations	
Regulation 88	Infectious diseases
National Quality Standard	
QA 2.1.2	Health practices and procedures
My Time, Our Place	
LOC 3	Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
Early Years Learning Framework	
LOC 3	Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Effective from May 2021
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