



## **DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

We aim to provide a safe, healthy environment in which children can develop and learn. Good hygiene and infection control procedures that are part of the routine for both children and staff and families reduce the risk of illness for children, workers, volunteers and visitors.

We follow the guidelines determined by the health department. This may mean that a person with a known infectious disease or with symptoms of an infectious illness will be excluded from the service.

### **PROCEDURE**

#### **Immunisation**

An up to date 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. Information about immunisation is given to staff.

#### **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 Holy Name. Children and staff are encouraged to practice good personal hygiene procedures, which 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 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.*)



## **Notifications**

If there is an occurrence of infectious disease at the service a family member 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 Holy Name, 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**

Children and Staff with diarrhoea/vomiting 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 "Staying Healthy in Childcare exclusion 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, Local Authorities and Child Care Centres (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**

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (2012), *Education and Care Services National Regulations (WA) 2012*. ACECQA, NSW.

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (2017), *The Guide to the National Quality Framework*, Feb 2018, ACECQA, NSW.

*Communicable Diseases Guidelines for Teachers, Child Care Workers, Local Government Authorities and Medical Practitioners*, Department of Health, Western Australia 2017.

*Staying Healthy in Child Care, Preventing infectious diseases in child care, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed*, June 2013  
National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Government

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<b>2018 May</b>	<b>Update the details of relevant authorities.</b>
<b>2020 May</b>	<b>Updated details of relevant authorities</b>
<b>2021 May</b>	<b>Updated details of relevant authorities</b>
<b>2022 May</b>	
<b>May 2023</b>	