

Purpose

The way that children interact with each other and with adults in education and care services means that diseases can quickly spread in a variety of ways. Whilst it is not possible to prevent the spread of all infections and diseases, minimising the risk is enhanced through:

- effective hand hygiene
- exclusion of ill children, educators and other staff
- immunisation

In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through interpersonal contact, our service will adhere to the exclusion period table, published by the Department of Health.

Responsibilities of the Approved Provider

- Ensure the service operates in line with the Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (NSW) 2010 and Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.
- Ensuring that where there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service, reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of that infectious disease (**National Regulation 88(1)**).
- Ensuring that where there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service, a parent/guardian or authorised emergency contact of each child at the service is notified of the occurrence as soon as is practicable.
- As soon as practicable, a family member or authorised emergency contact of each child being cared for must be notified of the occurrence (**National Regulation 88(2)**).
- Ensuring that information from the Department of Health about the recommended minimum exclusion periods is displayed at the service, is available to all stakeholders and is adhered to in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease.
- Ensuring that a child with a medical exemption or on a catch up schedule who is not immunised against a vaccine-preventable disease does not attend the service when an infectious disease is diagnosed, and does not return until there are no more occurrences of that disease at the service and the recommended minimum exclusion period has ceased.
- Notifying the Regulatory Authority and parent/guardian within 24 hours of a serious incident including when a child becomes ill at the service or medical attention is sought while the child is attending the service (**National Regulation 86**).
- Ensuring that appropriate and current information and resources are provided to staff and parents/guardians regarding the identification and management of infectious diseases, blood-borne viruses and infestations.
- Ensure the medical conditions policy is given to families.
- Keeping informed about current legislation, information, research and best practice.
- Ensuring that any changes to the exclusion table or immunisation schedule are communicated to families and staff immediately.

Responsibilities of the Nominated Supervisor

- Contacting the parents/guardians of a child suspected of suffering from an infectious or vaccine-preventable disease, or of a child not immunised against a vaccine-preventable disease that has been detected at the service, and requesting the child be collected as soon as possible.

- Notifying a parent/guardian or authorised emergency contact person when a symptom of an excludable infectious illness or disease has been observed.
- Ensuring that a minimum of one staff with current approved first aid qualifications is in attendance and immediately available at all times the service is in operation (**National Regulation 136**).
- Establishing good hygiene and infection control procedures, and ensuring that they are adhered to by everyone at the service.
- Ensuring the exclusion requirements for infectious diseases are adhered to as per the recommended minimum exclusion periods, notifying the Approved Provider and parents/guardians of any outbreak of infectious disease at the service, and displaying this information in a prominent position.
- Advising parents/guardians on enrolment that the recommended minimum exclusion periods will be observed in regard to the outbreak of any infectious diseases or infestations.
- Requesting that parents/guardians notify the service if their child has, or is suspected of having, an infectious disease or infestation.
- Providing information and resources to families to assist in the identification and management of infectious diseases and infestations.
- Maintaining confidentiality at all times.
- Provide relevant sourced materials to families.
- Ensuring that an “Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness” record is completed as soon as practicable or no later than 24 hours of the illness occurring (**National Regulation 86**).

Responsibilities of the Educators

- Ensure that any children that are suspected of having an infectious illness are responded to and their health and emotional needs supported at all times.
- Implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when tending to ill children.
- Ensure that families are aware of the need to collect their children as soon as practicable to ensure the child’s comfort.
- Maintain their own immunisation status, and advise the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor of any updates to their immunisation status.
- Provide varied opportunities for children to engage in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice.
- Observing signs and symptoms of children who may appear unwell, and informing the Nominated Supervisor.
- Providing access to information and resources for parents/guardians to assist in the identification and management of infectious diseases and infestations.
- Monitoring any symptoms in children that may indicate the presence of an infectious disease.
- Maintaining confidentiality at all times.

Responsibilities of the Families

- Providing Immunisation documentation upon enrolment and as the child receives subsequent immunisations.
- Keep their children at home if they are unwell or have an excludable infectious disease.
- Where a child has an acceptable exemption, keep the children at home when an infectious disease has been confirmed at the service and the child is not fully immunised against that infectious disease, until there are no more occurrences of that disease and the exclusion period has ceased.
- Inform the service if their child has an infectious disease or has been in contact with a person who has an infectious disease.

Immunisation Requirements

From the 1st of January 2018 all children attending a centre-based service must be up to date with their vaccinations and provide an up to date AIR Immunisation History Statement provided through Medicare on the MyGov account to the service upon enrolment or when immunisations have been updated. Should a child not be up to date then the family will not receive any benefit from the government. Enrolling children who are not immunised could result in a financial penalty to the Approved Provider.

There are exceptions to the rule however. Children who are medically unable to receive the immunisation due to allergy/reaction are exempted from having to take it but will still be considered up to date with their vaccinations. The exemptions will be listed on their AIR Immunisation History Statement.

To find out more information visit NSW Health website in the link below where they offer a toolkit with relevant information regarding the requirements for immunisation.

There are no current requirements for educators to receive vaccinations but it is highly recommended due to the risks.

Definitions, Terms & Abbreviations

Term	Meaning
Infectious	Likely to spread or influence others in a rapid manner
Infestation	Unusually large number of insects or animals typically to cause disease (Lice)
Exclusion	Deny access to a place or group
Exemption	The action of freeing or state of being free from an obligation or liability imposed on others

Related Statutory Obligations & Considerations

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy eTraining

<https://etraining.allergy.org.au/login/index.php>

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (NSW) No 104a

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2010/104a/full>

Department of Education - <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care>

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) - <http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/National-Quality-Framework-Resources->

[Kit/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf](http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/National-Quality-Framework-Resources-Kit/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf)

Education and Care Services National Regulation

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653>

Department of Health - <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/default.aspx>,

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/controlguideline/Pages/default.aspx>

Department of Health Immunisation Toolkit

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Publications/immunisation-enrolment-toolkit.pdf>

National Quality Framework (NQF) - <http://acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/>

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) –

https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch55e_exclusion_period_poster_130701.pdf

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/ch55>

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 -

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2000/40/whole>

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Related Telephone Numbers

- Early Childhood Directorate 1800 619 113
- Department of Health 1800 020 103
- Emergency Services 000

Amendment History

Version	Amendment	Short Description
---------	-----------	-------------------

This policy will be updated to ensure compliance with all relevant legal requirements every year. Appropriate consultation of all stakeholders (including staff and families) will be conducted on a timely basis. In accordance with Regulation 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulation*, families of children enrolled will be notified at least 14 days and their input considered prior to any amendment of policies and procedures that have any impact on their children or family.

Date: 17/02/2019

Version: 1

Last Amended By: Susan Chahwan

Next Review: February 2020

Position: Director