



Infectious Diseases Policy

To be read with -
Immunisation and Disease Prevention Policy

NQS

QA2	2.1.1	Each child's health needs are supported.
	2.1.4	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.

National Regulations

Regs	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
	85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
	86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
	87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
	88	Infectious diseases
	90	Medical conditions policy
	162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

Aim

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

Policy Statement

At Seaford District Community Children's Centre our educators continually review and develop strategies to educate the community and children about how to prevent the spread of infection. We are always looking to maintain the highest standard in the prevention of infectious disease.

At home, children are reasonably well protected from infectious diseases because they don't come in contact with many people. The adults they meet are generally immune to many childhood illnesses because they had them as children or they have been vaccinated. Because of this immunity, adults cannot transmit those infections to children.

Spending time in child care centres or other facilities, and being exposed to a large number of children for some time, provides an opportunity for infectious diseases to be spread. It is not possible to prevent the spread of all infections and illnesses within child care centres. However, some illness from infectious disease can be prevented.

Who is affected by this policy?

Child
Parents
Family

Educators and staff
Management Committee
Visitors
Students

Implementation

- The service will use the attached Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion to exclude children and educators and inform parents of exclusion and non-exclusion periods for infectious diseases. We will minimise the spread of potential infectious diseases between children, other children and educators by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend the service and facilitating the prevention and effective management of acute illness in children.
- Notification of the child's parents or nominated contacts will occur immediately.
- All appropriate notifications to the local Public Health Unit are available under the 'Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit and must occur within 24 hours.
- Children might be brought to care with symptoms or signs of illness or while in care suddenly develop an illness that has not been diagnosed by a doctor, and that might be potentially infectious or potentially life-threatening for the child. Symptoms may not clearly fit those listed in exclusion diseases making it difficult for the service to decide whether to accept or exclude the child from the service. If we suspect a child may have an infectious disease, we will exclude the child until we receive a medical certificate stating the child is not contagious and is okay to attend the Service.
- Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care, and can make a child too ill to participate in normal activities. All children who are unwell should not attend the Seaford District Community Children's Centre and we will ask parents of children who are unwell to collect the child from our centre or to make alternative arrangements for their child's care.

If an infectious disease arises at the service we will respond to any symptoms in the following manner -

- Isolate the child from other children.
- Ensure the child is comfortable and appropriately supervised by educators.
- Contact the child's parents or nominated emergency contact. If the child's parents are unavailable we will contact the next nominated person. We will inform the contact of the child's condition and ask for a parent or other authorised person to pick the child up as quickly as possible. Any person picking the child up from the service must be approved by the child's parents and be able to show identification.
- Ensure all bedding, towels and clothing which has been used by the child is disinfected. These items will be washed separately and if possible air dried in the sun.
- Ensure all toys used by the child are disinfected.
- Ensure all eating utensils used by the child are separated and sterilised.
- Provide information in the child's home languages to the best of our ability.

- Inform all centre families and educators of the presence of an infectious disease.
- Ensure confidentiality of any personal health related information obtained by the service and educators in relation to any child or their family.
- The Nominated Supervisor or another Responsible Person may require a child or staff member to provide a doctor's certificate on the first day back from an infectious illness stating they are okay to return to the centre.

Fevers

Unwell children include those with fevers. Fevers refer to temperatures above 38°C, and are usually a sign of infection (eg virus). When children develop a fever at the service, educators and staff will:

- contact parents and ask them to collect the child unless we have written advice from a medical practitioner that the fever is not caused by an infectious disease (eg teething). Babies less than 3 months old with fevers must always be collected by parents /authorised nominees who will be advised to take the child to a doctor
- administer first aid if required in line with service procedures. This may include calling an ambulance. Educators and staff will be especially vigilant caring for babies less than 3 months old with fevers
- if the child is distressed, bathe their face in lukewarm water offer water to the child and ensure they are not overdressed and their clothing is comfortable
- monitor the child's behaviour, alertness and any other symptoms that could indicate serious infection including rash, stiffness, vomiting, coughing or convulsions.

Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit

Infectious Diseases only require notification from doctors and laboratories. A list of diseases can be found on following form –

<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/PDF-files/0811-notifiable-disease-list.pdf>

Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit

Infectious Diseases only require notification from doctors and laboratories. A summary of notifiable diseases in South Australia can be found

<http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/clinical+resources/health+notifications/notifiable+disease+reporting>

SA Health has information on infectious diseases in child care and recommended exclusion periods at

<http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/health+topics/health+conditions+prevention+and+treatment/infectious+diseases/exclusion+from+childcare+preschool+school+and+work>

The Exclusion periods listed are:

Condition/reason	Exclusion period
Diarrhoea	Until no diarrhoea for 24 hours <i>(unless an outbreak then the Seaford District Community Children's Centre reverts to a 48 hour exclusion)</i>
Chicken pox	Until all blisters have dried
Cold sores	Exclusion not necessary
Conjunctivitis	Until discharge from the eyes has ceased
Glandular fever	Not necessary
Head lice	Until after effective medical treatment has been carried out
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Exclusion not necessary unless the person has a secondary infection
Impetigo (school sores)	Until effective medical treatment has been carried out
Infective Hepatitis	Until an appropriate medical certificate signifying recovery is provided
Influenza	Until the person feels well
Measles	Seven days from the appearance of the rash
Mumps	Ten days from the onset of symptoms
Rubella (German measles)	Five days from the appearance of the rash
Scabies	Until effective medical treatment has been carried out
Scarlet fever	Until an appropriate medical certificate signifying recovery is provided
Whooping cough	Four weeks unless a medical certificate signifying recovery is provided

Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

National Health and Medical Research Council .

Staying Healthy -Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services 5th edition, Commonwealth of Australia 2012.

Children who are unwell should not attend the service.

The definition of 'contacts' will vary according to disease. Please refer to specific Fact Sheets in the Staying Healthy Publication for the definition of 'Contacts'.

Campylobacter

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Candidiasis ('Thrush')

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Chickenpox (Varicella)

Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in unimmunised children and less in immunised children.

Exclusion of contacts - Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise not excluded.

CMV (Cytomegalovirus infection)

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Conjunctivitis

Exclude until discharge from the eyes has stopped unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious Conjunctivitis.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Cryptosporidium

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.

Exclusion of Contacts – Not excluded.

Diarrhoea (No organism identified)

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Fungal infections of the skin or nails (eg ringworm, tinea)

Exclude until the day after starting appropriate anti-fungal treatment.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

German measles (See 'Rubella')

Giardiasis

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Glandular fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

Exclude until all blisters have dried.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Head lice (Pediculosis)

Exclusion is NOT necessary if effective treatment begins before the next day at the Service.
(The child doesn't need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected).

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Hepatitis A

Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received and until at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about treating or vaccinating children in the same room or group.

Hepatitis B

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Hepatitis C

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)

Exclusion is not necessary if the person is developmentally capable of maintaining hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission.

If the person is unable to comply with these practices they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered by a dressing where possible.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)

Exclusion is NOT necessary. If the person is severely immunocompromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Human Parvovirus B19 (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Hydatid disease

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Impetigo (school sores)

Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Influenza and influenza-like illnesses

Exclude until well.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Listeriosis

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Measles

Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash.

Exclusion of Contacts - 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 first day of appearance of rash in the last case.

Meningitis (viral)

Exclude until well.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Meningococcal infection

Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about antibiotics and /or vaccination for people who were in the same room.

Molluscum contagiosum

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Mumps

Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Norovirus

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Pertussis (See 'Whooping Cough')**Pneumococcal Disease**

Exclude until person is well.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Roseola

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Ross River virus

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Rotavirus infection

Children are to be excluded from the service until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours.^b
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Rubella (German measles)

Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of the rash.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Salmonellosis (Salmonella infection)

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.^b
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Scabies

Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Shigellosis

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.^b
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)

Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Toxoplasmosis

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Exclude until medical certificate is produced from an appropriate health authority.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about screening, antibiotics or TB clinics.

Varicella See 'Chickenpox'**Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)**

Excluded until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.^b
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Whooping cough (pertussis)

Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment or for 21 days from the onset of coughing.
Exclusion of Contacts - Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated contacts, or antibiotics

Worms

Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring. Exclusion is not necessary if treatment has occurred.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

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.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard

Department of Health and Aging, National Immunisation Program Schedule

NHMRC. Staying Healthy -Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services 5th edition

SA Public Health Act 2011

South Australian Public Health (Notifiable and Controlled Notifiable Conditions) Regulations 2012

SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch