

Procedure Title:	Infectious Diseases
Effective Date:	December 2010
Review Date:	As necessary under the Policy and Procedure Development Policy

PROCEDURES:

- To protect and promote the health of the Centre's children, staff and families.
- An infectious illness of one person may compromise the health of another person in the Centre through cross-infection. Exclusion of infectious children and staff reduces the risk of infection to other children, staff and families.
- Effectively managing an outbreak of an infectious disease in the Centre by appropriate exclusion of sick children and staff.
- Informing all parents when an infectious disease occurs in the Centre by putting a notice on the front notice board or on the front door.
- Notifying the Public Health Unit when required by law, and as recommended by the NSW Health Department and the National Health & Medical Research Council.

PROCEDURES:

- The centre has adopted the NSW Health Department's guidelines for the control of infectious diseases in child care (see Exclusion Policy Guidelines). Therefore, all children and staff must be excluded from the Centre in accordance with these guidelines.
- *In all cases of illness the centre Director or her/his delegate has the right to request medical certification of a person's health before re-admitting them to the Centre.*
- Under the NSW Food Act (1989) any member of staff involved with food handling who has boils or other pustular infections of the skin on the arms or face, or is suspected of having any gastrointestinal infection, must be excluded from food handling duties when sick, or when they have cuts, wounds or skin lesions on hands which cannot be adequately covered.
- Under the Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992, the Centre Director must notify the local Public Health Unit (ph: 9513 3180) when any case of the following diseases occurs in the Centre:
 - diphtheria, measles, mumps, poliomyelitis, rubella (German measles), whooping cough (pertussis), tetanus and Hib. A full list is available in Appendix D of the Health & Safety in Children's Centres Model Policies and Practices 2nd Ed revised.
- As recommended by the NSW Health Department, the Centre Director should report to the Public Health Unit:
 - any single case of meningitis;
 - illness transmitted by food in two or more persons, or gastroenteritis affecting three or more persons;
 - any of the following affecting three or more persons: chickenpox, cold sores, conjunctivitis, influenza, strep throat or any other condition of concern.
- A medical certificate is required before a child or adult having diphtheria, hepatitis A, polio, tuberculosis, typhoid or paratyphoid can return to the Centre.
- When an infection (which is listed in the NSW Health Department's Guidelines as requiring exclusion) occurs in the Centre:
 - notices about the infection will be placed on the front notice board or on the front door, so as to alert parents and staff.

ASSOCIATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Infection Control Procedure, Exclusion Policy, Management of Unwell Children Policy and Procedure.

This policy/procedure was developed with the resources of KU Health and Medication Policies, Staying Healthy in Child Care and the Draft health and Safety in child Care Centre Model Policies and Practices 2nd Ed 2003.

This policy was ratified by the Management Committee in May 2003 and reviewed in November 2005. Reviewed again in July 2007 and no changes made. Changed to a Procedure in September 2008 and reviewed again in December 2010 and no changes made.