

<b>Procedure Title:</b>	<b>Infectious Diseases Policy and Procedure</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	June 2018
<b>Review Date:</b>	Every 2 years

#### GOALS:

- To protect and promote the health of the Centre's children, educators 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 educators reduces the risk of infection to other children, educators and families.
- Effectively managing an outbreak of an infectious disease in the Centre by appropriate exclusion of sick children and staff.
- Responding to the needs of the child or adult who presents with symptoms of an infectious disease or illness while attending the Centre.
- 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 NSW 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 childcare (see Exclusion Policy Guidelines). Therefore, all children and adults must be excluded from the Centre in accordance with these guidelines.
- Our Centre will maintain and promote effective hygiene practices, including handwashing, washing toys and using standard precautions when handling blood, nappy changing and bodily fluids.
- *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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed revised.
- As recommended by the NSW Health Department, the Centre Director should report to the Public Health Unit ([www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au))
  - 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.

## FEVER

In children, a temperature over 38 degrees indicates a fever. A fever is usually caused by an infection somewhere in the body. Some types of infections that lead to fever include:

- viral – around nine out of ten children with a fever will have a viral illness such as a cold, flu or gastroenteritis
- bacterial – such as some ear infections, pneumonia or urine infections.  
([www.health.vic.gov.au/edfactsheets/downloads/fever-in-children.pdf](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/edfactsheets/downloads/fever-in-children.pdf))

In order to prevent the spread of infection and ensure wellbeing, children with a temperature above 38 degrees will be excluded from the Centre.

- If the child returns in a 24 hour period, so the day after a child has been sent home from the Centre with a temperature, a medical certificate will be needed to state the child is well enough to attend care.

## IMMUNISATION

The NSW Government Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit for EC education and care services guides our practices and provides information and resources to support families access information regarding immunisation. Under the Public Health Act 2010, and the Bill passed by the NSW Parliament to amend this Act, parents who wish to enrol their child are required to provide the following at the time of enrolment:

- An AIR Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child's vaccinations are up-to-date.
- An AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP
- The Blue Book or any other form of immunisation statement is no longer accepted.

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> Ed
- CELA Sample policies
- Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations
- Public Health Law 2010 and Regulations 2012

