



Bangalow Community Children's Centre
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Infectious Diseases/Exclusion Policy

Date: September 2016

Legislation:	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Education and Care Services National Law 2011 Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2012 Public Health Act 2011
Reference:	National Quality Framework Resource Kit, 2011 Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing infectious diseases in child care - Fourth Edition, 2005

Introduction

All children, staff, families and visitors have the right to be in an education and care environment that healthy and safe. Children and adults with potentially infectious illness or diseases will be excluded from the service and required to seek appropriate treatment to minimise the spread of infection. Children will be unable to return to the service without a clearance letter from the doctor. Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing infectious diseases in child care (2005) is used as a reference for decisions relating to infectious illness or diseases.

Goals

Our Service aims to minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children, their families and educators by excluding children and adults who may have an infectious disease or who are too ill to attend the service.

Practices

- Families are asked to inform the Service if their child is absent due to illness and the specifics of the illness to help us minimise any possible further infection.
- If a child develops symptoms while at the Service we will:
 - Move the child to a comfortable place away from other children.
 - Ensure the child is comfortable and supervised by educators.
 - Contact the child's family or the emergency contact person if immediate family cannot be contacted. Inform family/carer of the child's condition and ask for the child to be collected as quickly as possible.
 - Ensure all bedding, towels and clothing which has been used by the child is disinfected. These items will be washed separately and if possible aired dry 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 home languages to the best of our ability.
 - Inform all Service families of the presence of an infectious disease.

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Practices Continued

- Educators are not responsible for decisions about the primary health care of sick children. Sick children need to be in the care of their families so that parents/carers can make the relevant important decisions.
- As soon as the Service is aware that a child has contracted a vaccine-preventable disease The Public Health Unit is advised.

Exclusion

The service uses National Health and Medical Research Council . Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing infectious diseases in child care - Fourth Edition, 2005 as a guide for recommended minimum periods of exclusion and suggested treatment. In the interest of the health and well being of all children and adults accessing the service, exclusion may be warranted if he or she:

- Is not well enough to join in the normal routines of the Service.
- Fever – above normal body temperature
- Diarrhea and Giardia
- Has an infectious disease or contagious skin condition - including head lice, conjunctivitis, Chicken Pox, Diphtheria, Glandular Fever, Hepatitis A, Measles, Mumps, German Measles, Whooping Cough and other diseases as listed by “Staying Healthy in Child Care” (2011), National Health and Medical Research Council
- The Public Health Unit may direct that unimmunised contacts be excluded from the service for the duration of an immunisable disease outbreak. Any such directive must be complied with by all staff members, children, families and visitors. Parents are responsible for payment of fees while their child is excluded under all circumstances.
- Parents will be informed on enrolment that if, advised by the Public Health Unit, all unimmunised children will be excluded if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease.

National Regulations

88 Infectious diseases

NQF

2.1 Each child’s health is promoted

EYLF

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

Related Policies

Immunisation Policy

Hand washing Policy

Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed based on regulatory requirements or when the need arises.

Family and staff feedback will be considered in the review process. Changes in legislation, regulations, NQF and standards will be considered.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to families and staff.

SOME INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CHILDREN

For more information please contact your local public health unit, community health centre,

Chicken Pox

Time from exposure to illness:

2–3 weeks

Symptoms

Slight fever, runny nose & a rash that begins as raised pink spots that blister & scab. Can be more severe in pregnant women and children.

Do I need to keep my child at home?

Yes, for 5 days after the rash first appears & until the blisters have all scabbed over.

How can I help prevent the spread?

Immunizations is available for children over 12 months old. It is recommended for people over 12 years who are not immune.

German Measles

Time from exposure to illness:

2 to 3 weeks

Symptoms

Often mild or no symptoms; mild fever, runny nose, swollen nodes, pink blotchy rash that lasts a short time. Can cause birth defects if pregnant women are infected.

Do I need to keep my child at home?

Yes, for at least 4 days after the rash appears.

How can I help prevent the spread?

Immunisation (MMR) at 12 months & 4 years of age.

Gastroenteritis

Time from exposure to illness:

Depends on the cause,

Several hours to several days

Symptoms

A combination of frequent loose or watery stools, vomiting, fever, stomach cramps, headaches.

Do I need to keep my child at home?

Yes, at least for 24 hours after diarrhea stops.

How can I help prevent the spread?

Careful hand washing with soap & water after using the toilet or handling nappies & before touching food.

Mumps

Time from exposure to illness

14 to 25 days.

Symptoms

Fever, swollen and tender glands around the jaw.

Do I need to keep my child home?

Yes, for 9 days after onset of swelling.

How can I help prevent spread?

Immunisation (MMR) at 12 months and 4 years of age.

Slapped Cheek

Time from exposure to illness

1 to 2 weeks

Symptoms

Mild illness; fever, red cheeks, itchy lace-like rash and possibly cough, sore throat or runny nose. Can cause foetal disease in pregnant women.

Do I need to keep my child home?

No, most infectious before the rash appears.

How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing; avoid sharing drinks.

Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease

Time from exposure to illness:

3 to 7 days

Symptoms

Mild illness, perhaps a fever, blisters around the mouth, on the hands & feet, & perhaps the nappy area.

Do I need to keep my child at home?

Yes, until the blisters have dried

How can I help prevent the spread?

Careful hand washing especially after wiping noses, using the toilet & changing nappies

Glandular Fever

Time from exposure to illness:

4 to 6 weeks

Symptoms

Fever, headache, sore throat, tiredness, swollen nodes.

Do I need to keep my child at home?

No, unless sick

How can I help prevent the spread?

Careful hand washing, avoid sharing drinks, food & utensils & kissing.

Conjunctivitis

Time from exposure to illness:

1–3 days

Symptoms

The eye feels scratchy, is red & may water. Lids may stick together on waking.

Do I need to keep my child at home?

Yes, while there is a discharge from the eye.

How can I help prevent the spread?

Careful hand washing, avoid sharing towels. Antibiotics may be needed.

Ringworm

Time from exposure to illness

Varies (may be several days).

Symptoms

Small scaly patch on the skin surrounded by a pink ring.

Do I need to keep my child home?

Yes, until the day after treatment has begun.

How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing.

Hepatitis A

Time from exposure to illness:

About 2 to 6 weeks

Symptoms

Often none in small children; sudden fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin) dark urine, pale stools.

Do I need to keep my child home?

Yes, for 2 weeks after the first symptoms or 1 week after onset of jaundice.

How can I help prevent the spread?

Careful hand washing, close contacts may need to have an injection of immunoglobulin; immunisation is recommended for some people.

Measles

Time from exposure to illness:

About 10 to 12 days until the rash develops.

Symptoms

Fever, tiredness, runny nose, cough & sore red eyes for a few days followed by a red blotchy rash that starts on the face & spreads down the body & lasts 4 to 7 days.

Do I need to keep my child home?

Yes, for at least 4 days after the rash appears

How can I help prevent spread?

Immunisation (MMR) at 12 months & 4 years. Contacts who are not immune should not attend school or work for 14 days.

Scarlet fever

Time from exposure to illness

1 to 3 days

Symptoms

Sudden onset sore throat, high fever and vomiting, followed by a rash in 12 to 36 hours.

Do I need to keep my child home?

Yes, until at least 24 hours of treatment has begun and the child is feeling better.

How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing. Sick contacts should see their doctor.

Worms

Time from exposure to illness:

Several weeks

Symptoms

Itchy bottom

Do I need to keep my child home?

No.

How can I help prevent the spread?

Careful hand washing. Whole household should be treated. Wash linen, towels & clothing worn in the past 2 days in hot water and detergent

Impetigo

School Sores

Time from exposure to illness

1 to 3 days

Symptoms

Small red spots change into blisters that fill with pus & become crusted; usually on the face, hands or scalp.

Do I need to keep my child at home?

Yes, until treatment starts. Sores should be covered with a watertight dressing.

How can I help prevent the spread?

Careful hand washing

Whooping Cough

Time from exposure to illness

7 to 20 days

Symptoms

Starts with runny nose, followed by persistent cough that comes in bouts. Bouts may be followed by vomiting and whooping sound as the child gasps for air.

Do I need to keep my child home?

Yes, until the first 5 days of a special antibiotic have been taken.

How can I prevent spread?

Immunisation at 2,4,6 and 18 months and 4 years of age. A special antibiotic can be given for the patient and close contacts. Unimmunised contacts may be excluded from child care until the first 5 days of a special antibiotic has been taken.

Influenza

Time from exposure to illness:

1 to 3 days

Symptoms

Sudden onset fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough, muscle & headaches.

Do I need to keep my child home?

Yes, until they feel better

How can I help prevent spread?

Immunisation, is recommended for the elderly & people with chronic illnesses.

Meningococcal Disease

Time from exposure to illness:

2 to 10 days

Symptoms

Sudden onset of fever & a combination of headache, neck stiffness, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness & rash.

Do I need to keep my child home?

Seek medical help immediately. Patient will need to hospital treatment.

How can I help prevent spread?

Avoid sharing drinks. Close contacts should see their doctor urgently if symptoms develop, and may need to have special antibiotic.

Scabies

Time from exposure to illness

New infections: 2 to 6 weeks;
reinfections: 1 to 4 days.

Symptoms

Itchy skin, worse at night. Worse around wrists, armpits, buttocks, groin and between fingers and toes.

Do I need to keep my child home?

Yes, until the day after treatment has begun.

How can I help prevent spread?

Close contacts should be examined for infestation and treat if necessary. Wash linen, towels and clothing worn in the past 2 days in hot water and detergent.

