



## **St Peter's Preschool**

# **Infectious/Notifiable Diseases Policy and Assessing Serious and Potential Infectious Diseases**

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Quality Area 2 Children's Health and Safety 2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, and linked to Quality Area 6 Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities 6.2.2 6.3.1.

### **Aim**

The preschool will minimise the spread of potential infectious diseases and illnesses between children and staff members, by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend preschool. With an effective prevention and exclusion policy, the preschool will help minimise the spread of illnesses amongst the preschool community.

Children who are brought to preschool with signs or symptoms of illness or develop an illness at the preschool that might be potentially infectious or life threatening, will be excluded from the preschool. The staff members have the right to exclude a sick child even if the child has not been diagnosed by a doctor.

Some symptoms may not clearly fit those listed in exclusion diseases which may make it difficult for the children's preschool staff and nominated supervisor, to decide whether to accept or exclude the child from care. However, as most illnesses and diseases are contagious, it is a safeguard for the preschool community that these children are excluded from care until all symptoms are cleared.

### **Related Policies**

Administering Medications Policy

Immunisation Policy (Child and Staff)

### **Legislative Requirements**

The preschool and all staff members must ensure all operations are compliant to the following Acts/Regulations as required by the State of New South Wales. Failure to meet the below requirements is a criminal offence and may result in fines of up to \$22,000.



## Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

### 88 Infectious diseases

(1) If there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at an education and care service, the approved provider of the service must ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of the infectious disease at the service.

Penalty: \$2000.

(2) If there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at a centre-based service, the approved provider of the service must ensure that a parent or an authorised emergency contact of each child being educated and cared for by the service is notified of the occurrence as soon as practicable.

Penalty: \$2000.

### Who is affected by this policy?

Child  
Staff  
Families  
Management  
Visitors

## PROCEDURE FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

- Workers should act on the assumption that everyone with whom they come in contact potentially has a highly infectious condition.
- Gloves must be worn at any time the worker is likely to come in contact with body fluids, and at all times when toileting children.
- All open sores and wounds are to be kept well covered.
- Toilets and wash basins must be cleaned with disinfectant at least once a day, and at other times as necessary.
- Clean up spilt blood or faeces immediately.

**The Preschool cannot provide care for children with a contagious illness, or any other illness.**

Note: The NHMRC recommends that children who are physically unwell should be excluded from attending school preschool and childcare centres. This list should be read in conjunction with the



National Health and Medical Research Council's publication: National Health and Medical Research Council. June, 2001. Staying Healthy in Child Care. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Canberra, AGPS. Available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/>

## Implementation

To minimise the spread of potential infectious disease between children and preschool staff members the preschool should:

**Advise families to always inform preschool when their child has been sick at home prior to bringing their child to care** so you can assess whether or not they are well enough to attend. Use this guide to assess whether the child is too ill to attend or needs to see a doctor, **inform the family that the child cannot attend until they have recovered or have a certificate from their doctor.**

**If you are having difficulty assessing whether a child is ill** or not fit enough to attend care, discuss with the family and contact the child's doctor if they consent and this step is required. If you are unable to contact the child's doctor, contact:

- another local doctor,
- the local hospital or emergency department,
- the local Public Health Unit - **Hunter New England Area Health 67648000.**

Refer difficult or unresolved situations in relation to infectious diseases to the local Public Health Unit phone **67648000** or the Children's Services Advisor.

**Advise families** to take a child with any of the illnesses or symptoms listed below or a child you believe to be acutely ill or infectious to their doctor.

**Write a report** and include any actions and decisions taken regarding excluding a child from care or advising families to take their child to a doctor.

### **If a child develops symptoms while at the preschool we will:**

- Isolate the child from other children.
- Ensure the child is comfortable and supervised by staff.
- Contact the child's nominated family member. If this family member is unavailable we will contact the next nominated family person. We will inform them of the child's condition and ask for the family member to pick him/her up as quickly as possible.
- **Give the excluded child's family a copy of the policy and information about the disease (if appropriate).**



- **Inform all preschool families of the presence of an infectious disease.**
- Ensure confidentiality of any personal health related information obtained by the preschool staff members which may be related to any preschool family.
- As stipulated in the amended Public Health Act 1992, all child care services must notify the Public Health Authority if an outbreak of an infectious disease that is preventable by vaccine occurs. The preschool will collect and keep up to date records of every child's immunisation status. Records must also be kept of children who have not received any vaccinations. These families will be advised of the infectious disease and will be required to keep their unvaccinated child at home for the required period, as recommended by the local Public Health Unit.
- Family members have a responsibility to tell the preschool if their child develops a vaccine preventable disease.

**Exclude a child and advise the family to take the child to a doctor if you consider:**

- the child has fever
- the child has fever accompanied by abnormal behaviour or symptoms or signs that indicate a possible severe illness (such as lethargy, drowsiness, severe or prolonged coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, unusual irritability or crying), or
- the child will be unable to participate in normal activities without possible detriment to their care and safety, or
- the child will require extra supervision which may compromise the adequate supervision, care and safety of other children.

## **Sources**

**Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011**

**Public Health Act 1991**

**National Health and Medical Research Council. (2005). *Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care (4th Edition)*.**



## Review

The policy will be reviewed annually.

The review was conducted and approved by the:

Board of Management      President on behalf of Committee:      Lauren Zell

Staff      Nominated Supervisor on behalf of Staff:      Sharron Ribeiro

Last reviewed:      24/05/2012

Date for next review

## National Health and Medical Research Council . *Staying Healthy in Child Care.* 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Commonwealth of Australia 2005.

### Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

Children who are unwell should stay home from schools, pre-schools and child care centres.

**Definition of 'Contacts'** - A person who has had the opportunity to acquire an infection from a specified type of exposure during the infectious period.

Condition	Exclusion of Case	Exclusion of Contacts
<b>Amoebiasis</b> ( <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> )	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Campylobacter</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Candidiasis</b>	See 'Thrush'	
<b>Chickenpox (Varicella)</b>	Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving



	the rash first appeared in unimmunised children and less in immunised children.	chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded.
<b>CMV (Cytomegalovirus infection)</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	Exclude until the discharge from the eyes has stopped unless doctor has diagnosed a noninfectious conjunctivitis.	Not excluded
<b>Cryptosporidium infection</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Diarrhoea (No organism identified)</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours. Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.	Not excluded
<b>Diphtheria</b>	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least 2 negative throat swabs, the first swab not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics followed by another swab 48 hours later.	Exclude contacts that live in the same house until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority.
<b>German measles</b>	See 'Rubella'	
<b>Giardiasis</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Glandular fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Hand, foot and mouth disease</b>	Exclude until all blisters have dried.	Not excluded
<b>Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)</b>	Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days. <sup>10</sup>	Not excluded
<b>Head lice (Pediculosis)</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary if effective treatment is commenced prior to the next day at child care (ie the child doesn't need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected).	Not excluded



<b>Hepatitis A</b>	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before seven days after the onset of jaundice.	Not excluded
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Hepatitis C</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)</b>	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.	Not excluded
<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary. If the person is severely immunocompromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses.	Not excluded
<b>Hydatid disease</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Impetigo (school sores)</b>	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing.	Not excluded
<b>Influenza and influenza-like illnesses</b>	Exclude until well	Not excluded
<b>Legionnaires' disease</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Leprosy</b>	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority	Not excluded
<b>Measles</b>	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash	Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded. Non-immunised contacts of a case are to be excluded from child care until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case, unless immunised within 72 hours of first contact during the infectious period with the first case. All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case.
<b>Meningitis (bacterial)</b>	Exclude until well and has received	Not excluded



	appropriate antibiotics	
<b>Meningitis (viral)</b>	Exclude until well Not excluded Meningococcal infection Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded
<b>Meningococcal infection</b>	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded
<b>Molluscum contagiosum</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Mumps</b>	Exclude for nine days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded
<b>Norovirus</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded
<b>Parvovirus infection (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary <i>(Preschool staff members are concerned about the potential risk to pregnant women and would seek immediate doctor's advice)</i>	Not excluded
<b>Pertussis</b>	See 'Whooping Cough'	
<b>Respiratory Syncytial virus</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>RInghworm/tinea</b>	Exclude until the day after appropriate antifungal treatment has commenced	Not excluded
<b>Roseola</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Ross River virus</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Rotavirus infection</b>	Children are to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Rubella (German measles)</b>	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
<b>Salmonella infection</b>	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
<b>Scabies</b>	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded
<b>Scarlet fever</b>	See 'Streptococcal sore throat'	
<b>School sores</b>	See 'Impetigo'	
<b>Shigella infection</b>	Exclude until there has not been a	Not excluded



	loose bowel motion for 24 hours	
<b>Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)</b>	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well	Not excluded
<b>Thrush (candidiasis)</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Toxoplasmosis</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Tuberculosis (TB)</b>	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from an appropriate health authority	Not excluded
<b>Typhoid, Paratyphoid</b>	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from appropriate health authority	Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities
<b>Varicella</b>	See 'Chickenpox'	
<b>Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)</b>	Children are to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours.	Not excluded
<b>Warts</b>	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
<b>Whooping cough (pertussis)</b>	Exclude until five days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment or for 21 days from the onset of coughing	Contacts that live in the same house as the case and have received less than three doses of pertussis vaccine are to be excluded from the centre until they have had 5 days of an appropriate course of antibiotics. If antibiotics have not been taken, these contacts must be excluded for 21 days after their last exposure to the case while the person was infectious.
<b>Worms</b>	Exclude if loose bowel motions present	Not excluded