

## 6.6.11 Infectious Disease Policy

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting individuals 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.

The service will use the “Recommended Minimum Exclusion periods” as outlined in Table 1.1 of the *National Health and Medical Research Council. Staying Healthy -Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services 5th edition, Commonwealth of Australia 2012* 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.

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 Service and we will ask parents of children who are unwell to collect the child from our Service or to make alternative arrangements for their child’s care.

### Procedures:

Procedures to minimise the risk of cross infection are to be in line with the recommendations outlined in *Staying in Childcare* (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.) and *Health Department of Western Australia Communicable Disease Publication* (2017):

1. Hand washing;
2. Exclusion guidelines;
3. Immunisation;
4. Cleaning the kindy service;
5. Dealing with spills of blood and bodily fluids

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 individual. We will inform the contact of the child’s condition and ask for a parent or other authorised individual to pick the child up as quickly as possible. Any individual picking the child up from the service must be approved by the child’s parents and be able to show identification.

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- 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 service 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 Service.

Notification of infectious diseases and related conditions should be done as outlined on the Dept of Health website here: [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N\\_R/Notification-of-infectious-diseases-and-related-conditions](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Notification-of-infectious-diseases-and-related-conditions)

Hand washing procedures are an integral part of the Educators/staff daily routine. Hand hygiene practices will be carried out as outlined in Table 3.1 of the National Health Medical Research Council, “Staying Healthy” 5<sup>th</sup> Edition .

<b>When to perform hand hygiene</b>	
<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>
<b>Educators and other staff</b> Starting work, so germs are not introduced into the service Eating or handling food Giving medication Putting on gloves Applying sunscreen or other lotions to one or more children Going home, so germs are not taken home with you home with you	Taking off gloves Changing a nappy Cleaning the nappy change area Using the toilet Helping children use the toilet Coming in from outside play Wiping a child’s nose or your own nose Eating or handling food Handling garbage Cleaning up faeces, vomit or blood Applying sunscreen or other lotions to one or more children Touching animals
<b>Children</b> Starting the day at the service; parents can help with this Eating or handling food Going home, so germs are not taken home with them	Eating or handling food Touching nose secretions Using the toilet Having their nappy changed—their hands will become contaminated while they are on the change mat Coming in from outside play Touching animals

**Exclusion of infectious/sick children**

- Identify if the symptom or medical condition is a communicable disease and determine the exclusion period according to the communicable disease’s guidelines.
- Contact the child’s parents or authorised emergency contacts as soon as practicable.

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- Notify the Educators/staff Nominated Supervisor.
- Notify the relevant regulatory authority, e.g. Health Department.
- Advise all parents and staff of the occurrence of an infectious disease, the exclusion period and display a notice at the service.
- Unwell children should be excluded if they require a level of care and attention that would be detrimental to the safety and wellbeing of other children in care.

### Immunisation

- All children attending the service are to have up-to-date immunisations.
- A copy of the MyGov Immunisation status is to be provided at the time of enrolment.

### Cleaning the Educators/staff Service

- All toys and equipment used by children must be kept clean and in good condition at all times and as needed.
- Toys and equipment will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of theme/focus rotation before storage.
- All large equipment i.e., tables, home corner equipment, chairs, bookcases will be cleaned thoroughly by Educators/staff at the end of each term.
- Professional cleaners will clean the Educators/staff room daily according to direction from Centre Management.
- Clean all areas and equipment used by children with detergent and warm water, then rinse and allow to dry.
- All furniture used in providing the education and care service must be safe, clean and in good repair.

### Dealing with spills of blood and bodily fluids

#### **Educators/staff will:**

- Ensure use of hygiene and infection control precautions by all people in contact with children in the Educators/staff service.
- Wash hands and skin with warm, soapy water after any contact with blood, faeces, urine, vomit or any other body fluids.
- Wear gloves where possible to clean up spilt blood, faeces, urine, vomit or other body fluids with neutral detergent and water, and regularly wash floors, toileting, equipment and toys.

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- Ensure all cuts, abrasions, dermatitis or open skin on their hands is covered with a water-resistant occlusive dressing, which should be changed each time it is soiled or wet.
- Be aware the risk of contracting blood borne diseases including HIV through skin contact with blood is low but is more likely if there are open cuts, abrasions and open wounds that are uncovered.
- Use gloves when applying first aid to bleeding wounds.

If exposed to blood or bodily fluids (via needle stick injury; skin contact; splash into eyes, nose or mouth; or biting seek medical advice as soon as practical about risk of infection and post exposure treatment, including HIV and Hepatitis B and C treatment and testing regardless of the known or presumed infection status of source person of the blood or body fluid.

For needle stick or sharps injuries involving exposure of any Educators/staff or children to blood or body fluids:

- wash the injured area with soap and running water;
- dry the wound and cover with a water resistant occlusive dressing; dispose of the object that caused the injury, wear gloves and use forceps or tongs to pick up the object, and discard into a sealed firm container to be disposed of (preferably a yellow biohazard sharps container which are commercially available);

For skin contact with blood and or bloodily fluids:

- wash off with warm water and soap as soon as possible and cover all open skin with a water resistant occlusive dressing;
- if splashes into eyes, rinse for 5 to 10 minutes with water, or a sterile eye irrigation solution if available. If wearing contact lenses, rinse the eyes with the lenses in, remove the lenses and rinse the eyes again and do not put the contaminated lenses back in;
- if splashes into the nose or mouth, blow your nose or spit out and rinse with water.

For clothes, toys or other objects that have been contaminated by blood or body fluids, wear gloves and a protective apron or overalls, mop excess fluid with disposable paper towel and wash with detergent and water.

To clean a blood spill on the floor:

- avoid direct contact with the spill;
- wear gloves and, if needed, a protective apron or overalls and eye protection and disposable mask if eye or face splashes are likely;
- contain the spill as far as possible by placing absorbent paper or paper towel around the edges of the spill, mop up as much as possible with absorbent paper, discard into a sealed heavy plastic bag and dispose;
- clean up the remaining spill and contaminated surface with detergent and water;
  - dry or ventilate the area, discard all gloves and disposable materials into a sealed heavy plastic bag for disposal;
  - any contaminated clothing, cloths or cleaning implements should be washed in detergent and hot water. If using a washing machine, wash contaminated and non contaminated materials separately, use the longest cycle for contaminated material, and if washing by hand, wear gloves;
  - for spills onto carpet or upholstered furniture, wear gloves, mop up as much excess fluid as possible with absorbent paper, clean with a detergent and water, and shampoo with an industrial carpet cleaner as soon as possible.

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**Recording and reporting practices**

- Educators/staff are to notify the Educators/staff and attend their doctor if they think that they have been exposed to blood borne diseases or to blood or body fluid from a needle stick, sharps injury, splash into the face, eyes, mouth or nose or contact with an open wound, regardless of the known or presumed infections status of the person or child who is the source of the blood or body fluid.
- If Educators/staff believe a child has been exposed to blood borne diseases or to blood or body fluid from a needle stick, sharps injury, splash into the face, eyes, mouth or nose or contact with an open wound, regardless of the known or presumed infections status of the person or child who is the source of the blood or body fluid, they are to notify the Nominated Supervisor, parents and relevant authorities.
- Educators/staff must fill in an **Staff Incident Report** form if they think that they have been exposed to blood borne diseases or to blood or body fluid from a needle stick, sharps injury, splash into the face, eyes, mouth or nose or contact with an open wound, regardless of the known or presumed infections status of the person or child who is the source of the blood or body fluid.

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