



PREVENTION OF ILLNESS

RATIONALE

All parents and teachers have a responsibility for creating a healthy centre environment, which will protect and nurture all children. Exclusion of children with infectious sickness and diseases from our centre is necessary where there is potential for further spread of infection. Exclusion of the children is at the Centre Manager's discretion.

PROCEDURES

If a child becomes unwell whilst in the centre, the parents/caregivers or emergency contacts will be contacted to collect their child. Parents/Caregivers are expected to collect their child without delay. The child will be isolated to minimise the spread of infection, made comfortable on either a bed or chair in a secluded area or the centre office, and supervised by a staff member while they wait to be collected. Parents/Caregivers will need to sign a copy of the ECE Accident/Illness Register that has been completed by a First Aid staff member upon collection.

If the sickness escalates prior to the parents arrival and the child needs urgent medical attention, the Centre Manager, or in their absence a Team Leader will either call an ambulance or take the child to the doctors clinic held on file. Parents will also be notified.

Children will be excluded from the service when they have any of the following conditions:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in the programme and activities.
- Fever (temperature 38°C or higher), persistent crying, persistent coughing, persistent runny nose, or other signs of possible illness.
 - Children can return 24 hours after last fever (without paracetamol or any medication which would mask symptoms of fever).
 - Children can return without symptoms.
- The child has been vomiting and/or having diarrhoea. Children must be symptom free for 48 hours before returning to the Centre, and have had at least one normal bowel motion and is able to keep food down.
- The child has a unexplained rash – until a doctor has determined with a doctors certificate that the illness is not infectious or contagious.
- Hand, Foot and Mouth – until blisters have dried. If blisters are able to be covered, and child is feeling well, they will not need to be excluded.
- Conjunctivitis – until there is no discharge coming from the eyes.
- Head lice and/or nits – until treatment has commenced and hair has been thoroughly combed. It is recommended that the hair is combed daily for 3 weeks, with a lice-removal comb, to ensure hair is free of nits/lice. Children can return to the service when no live nits/lice are present. Any live nits/lice found will result in parents/caregivers being contacted and the child collected.
- Thread worm – until treatment is completed.
- Scabies – until after treatment has been completed.
- Chickenpox – 1x week from appearance of rash or until all blisters have dried.
- Tuberculosis – until the child's doctor or Public Health Service advises in writing that the child is non-infectious.
- Measles – 5 days after the appearance of rash.
- Ringworm – no exclusion, but skin contact should be avoided.

- Rubella (German Measles) – until well and for 7 days from appearance of rash.
- Scabies – Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment.
- School sores (Impetigo) – until sores have dried up or 24 hour after antibiotic treatment has started AND keep all sores on exposed skin covered.
- Streptococcal sore throat – until well and/or has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours.
- Whooping Cough (Pertussis) – Five days from commencing antibiotic treatment or, if no antibiotic treatment, then 21 days from onset of illness or until no more coughing, whichever comes first.
- Mumps – until 5 days after facial swelling develops, or until well.

Additional notes:

- For some vaccine preventable diseases, there is a requirement to exclude unimmunised children who have had contact with a case of disease. This applies to Measles, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. The Centre Manager will seek the advice from the Ministry of Health.
- Infectious diseases information and exclusion details are outlined in a chart taken directly from the Ministry of Education. (Please see the Appendixes in the Policy Folder.)
- Individual Medical and Health and Safety Action Plans will be written in consultation with parents for children who suffer from Asthma, Epilepsy, specific allergies, or any other ongoing medical conditions. These will be reviewed every 3 months or as required by Health Professionals.
- Management or teaching staff may request a medical certificate from a health professional before allowing a child to return from illness.
- Adults shall not attend the Centre if they are ill or infectious as outlined for children above.
- Any child who is required to leave the centre due to illness will have this recorded in the accident/injury Register.

Register Includes:

- Child's name
- The date, time and description of injury, illness or incident
- Actions taken and by whom
- Evidence that parents have been informed

Preventing and managing the spread of disease among children and staff in the centre if an outbreak should occur:

- Informing parents and caregivers of any cases of infectious diseases within the centre, by emailing a letter and putting a notice up on the noticeboard with advice and symptoms.
- Contact the Public Health Service for information and advice.
- Keep a record of each case by documenting these on a Case Log form supplied by MoE.
- Manage hygiene and cleaning routines in the centre. Cleaning schedules will be followed but the frequency and intensity will be increased (please see cleaning schedules).
- Keep the immunization register up to date.

Where two or more attendees and/or staff members have experienced two or more episodes of vomiting and/or diarrhoea within a 24 hour period and is suspected of an outbreak, it is recommended to contact Healthline for advice.



Childcare

Hand Washing and Hygiene

Good hand washing is crucial in stopping the spread of infection, frequent hand washing is encouraged and the 20/20 rule should be used. Wash hands for 20 seconds using warm soapy water and dry for 20 seconds using a paper towel.

For both adults and children, hand washing is necessary before food is eaten and after toileting. Staff and children with contagious or infectious diseases will be excluded from attending the centre for the period of time they are infectious or until medical clearance has been given.

Further to this policy we will refer to:

- Ministry of Education Health and Safety licensing criteria
- Ministry of Education - Appendix 2 Infectious Diseases for Criterion HS26
- Ministry of Health - Infectious diseases Information and Exclusion List
- Nga Kupu Oranga, Healthy Messages
- Ministry of Health - Healthline Ph 0800 611 116