



### Infectious Diseases Procedures

Communication and Notification

Exclusion – sick children and adults

Personal Hygiene – hand washing

Immunisation

Managing a Child with Acute Fever

### Communication/Notification

Our nominated supervisors will:

- Notify families if there is an occurrence of an infectious disease
- Seek advice from our local Public Health Unit where a potentially serious infectious disease or major outbreak occurs
- Provide any advices required to families and staff by posting the information on our website or on the program notice board
- Notify our local **Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055** in the event we have an occurrence of any of the following infectious diseases:
  - Rotavirus – diarrhoea (if several children in one group are ill)
  - HIB Haemophilus
  - Hepatitis A
  - Hepatitis B (recent illness only)
  - Measles
  - Meningococcal infection
  - Parovirus B19
  - Pertussis – whooping cough
  - Roseola – (if 2 or more children in one group are ill)
  - Scarlet Fever
  - TB – Tuberculosis
- Maintain detailed records of infectious disease/illness in a confidential manner

Our families will:

- Notify the program as soon as possible if their child is diagnosed with an infectious disease

### Dealing with infectious diseases – prevention

The most effective ways to break the chain of infection and stop the spread of infectious diseases are:

- Effective personal hygiene including hand washing
- Exclusion of children and adults
- Immunisation

Other strategies include:

- Cough and sneeze etiquette
- Appropriate use of gloves
- Effective environmental cleaning



## Personal hygiene including hand washing

Personal hygiene is the practice of keeping oneself and one's living and working condition clean in order to prevent disease and to maintain good health. The daily habit of ensuring cleanliness and a hygienic lifestyle will help prevent future health care issues.

### Our educators and staff will:

- Wash their hands using the recommended hand washing procedure outlined in Staying Healthy in Childcare (National Medical Research Council 5<sup>th</sup> Edition)
- Wash their hands:
  - on arrival at the program
  - before handling food
  - before eating
  - after removing protective gloves
  - after going to the toilet
  - after cleaning up body fluids – blood, faeces or vomit
  - after wiping a nose
  - before giving medication
  - after handling garbage
  - after playing outside
  - after touching a pet
  - before going home
- Role model hand washing to children and encourage hand washing throughout the day
- Promote effective hand washing to families

## Exclusion of ill children and adults

- Exclusion periods are recommended by the NSW Department of Health and based on the time that a child/adult with a specific disease or condition might be infectious. *Refer to the Exclusion Schedule*
- The exclusion period is the minimum period of time to be away from the program, however, some children and/or adults may need to stay away longer to recover from the illness

### Our nominated supervisor, certified supervisor, responsible person in charge will:

- Exclude children and/or adults with an infectious disease from the program for the exclusion period

### Our educators/staff and families will:

- Adhere to the exclusion period
- Provide medical certificate advising that the excluded child/staff member can return to the program



## Immunisation

Whilst Weldon Children's Services actively encourages each child, educator and family member using our programs to be immunised, we recognise that immunisation is not compulsory.

- If a child's immunisation record is not provided upon enrolment and it is not updated by the parents/guardians, or if the child has not been immunised against certain diseases, then the child will be recorded as being not fully immunised
- If there is a case of a vaccine preventable disease at a program, a child may be excluded from the program for a period of time or until the evidence of immunisation in an approved record is provided
- To be fully immunised a child needs to have received all of the vaccines recommended for their age as part of the *National Immunisation Program*. Homeopathic immunisation is not recognised
- If a child is not fully immunised and has been in contact with someone with a vaccine preventable disease outside of the program, the child may need to be excluded from the program for a period of time
- It is the responsibility of the family to inform the program that their child has come into contact with someone with a preventable or infectious disease

### Immunisation related payments for parents

Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR)

- The benefits applies to children who are fully immunised or have an approved exemption from immunisation
- For parents to receive benefits without their child being immunized, the family health care provider will need to certify that:
  - the child has a medical reason not to have particular vaccination
  - the child has had a disease and has a natural immunity
  - a particular vaccine is unavailable

### Conscientious objection

- Immunisation is not compulsory and as such, if a parent chooses not to immunize their child, they are to complete a conscientious objection for or exemption medical form
- These forms are available from the Medicare website and need to be completed by a recognised immunisation provider
- An appointment will need to be made with the recognised immunisation provider to complete the forms
- The forms will be kept in the child's enrolment record

### Educator immunisation

- All educators and staff are encouraged to be fully immunised as recommended by NHMRC, receiving vaccination as required against:
  - Hepatitis A
  - MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
  - Pertussis
  - Influenza



## Managing a Child with Acute Fever

This procedure reflects the Managing a Child with Acute Fever Policy as detailed in the publication: *NSW Health and Safety in Children's Services Model Practices and Procedures*.

To comply with the requirement of the NSW Department of Education and Communities and to adhere to *NSW Health and Safety in Children's Services Model Policies and Practices* the recommended policy for children's services is to alert families to the risks of an overdose of paracetamol. The policy states that paracetamol is toxic to children when administered in an overdose, children can tolerate a fever up to 38.5° and that it is more important to ensure that a child is hydrated.

### Our practice:

**We do not administer paracetamol**

#### We will:

- With the on-set of a temperature we contact the parents/guardians and request the child be collected from the program immediately
- We will make the child as comfortable as possible and cool the child by removing heavy outer garments, providing regular drinks of water, sponging a child with a cool cloth until the parent/guardian/authorised person attends the program to collect the child
- If the parent/guardian/authorisation cannot be contacted or does not attend the program within one hour of contact we will call an ambulance
- If after all attempts to cool the child there is no drop in the child's temperature we will call an ambulance

## Managing a child at risk of febrile convulsion

### Parents will:

At enrolment or as the condition is diagnosed advise the program of medication requirements, an emergency plan signed by a medical practitioner and completed medication administration form.

## Managing a child who has a febrile convulsion while in care

If in any circumstance a child has a convulsion (regardless of whether it is febrile convulsion or a seizure due to another cause), and even if it stops, staff will immediately call **000** for an ambulance and notify the parent/guardian or authorised person.

## The National Quality Framework

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: **88,168 (2) (b)**,

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care:

QA 2-Standard **2.1**: Element **2.1.2, 2.1.3**

Early Years Learning Framework

Framework for School Age Care: My Time Our Place

Quality Area Two: Children's Health and Safety

## Infectious Diseases

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Kids@Weldon

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