

EXCLUSION, INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES POLICY

Rationale:

The Queen Elizabeth Community Child Care Centre (TQEHCCCC) follows the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) guidelines for exclusion of children and staff with infectious diseases from the Centre, and aims to provide, promote and encourage the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment. The implementation of preventative measures through a comprehensive infection control process aims to minimise and/or prevent the spread of infections and will be upheld by all staff, children, families, visitors or other persons attending the Child Care Centre at any time.

'While it is not possible to prevent the spread of all infections and illnesses, effective illness management practices and maintaining high standards of hygiene significantly reduce the likelihood of children becoming ill.' (NQS 2.1.2)

For more information please visit: [National Quality Standard 2018](#)

In relation to children, educators will 'create and maintain safe, healthy, inclusive environments that support children's agency and enhance their learning.' (Code of Ethics, 2016)

For more information please visit: [ECA Code of Ethics](#)

National Regulations relating to this policy are 86 and 88

For more information please visit: [Education and care National Regulations 2011](#)

Implementation:

- The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Community Child Care Centre recognizes an excludable fever as being 38° and above. If a child develops a high fever while at the Centre, Families will be notified immediately. Educators will record the temperature, date, time and action on the "Temperature Record" Form. All efforts will be made to reduce the fever manually, by first removing excess clothing and giving frequent sips of water to reduce the effects of dehydration.

Paracetamol will not be administered by Educators unless the child has an individual seizure action plan.

It is the Families responsibility to inform the Centre if their child/ren has been febrile in the last 24 hours.

- A child will be considered unwell if they are displaying any of the symptoms that could indicate they have any of the excludable illnesses outlined in the NHMRC's Minimum Exclusion Period Schedule. These symptoms may include a temperature of 38° or above, flu like symptoms, listlessness, needing one on one attention that is out of character.
- Families will be notified and asked to collect their child. It is expected children will be picked up within the hour.
- Children with vomiting or diarrhoea will be excluded from the centre until they have been symptom free for 24 hours.
- Educators with vomiting or diarrhoea will be excluded from the centre until they have been symptom free for 48 hours.

- Excluding sick children and adults from the Centre is an important way of preventing the introduction or re-introduction of infection. Bringing a child who is unwell to the Centre may also cause additional stress to the child.
- Families may not bring children to the Centre who are obviously unwell or have been unwell in the 24 hours before coming to care, e.g.: undiagnosed rash or fever.
- Children and staff who are taking prescribed antibiotics need to have had the medication over a 24 hour period before returning to the Centre i.e. first **two** doses of medication at home.
- Families are asked to notify the Centre of potential or confirmed infectious diseases as soon as they become aware of them.
- All parents will be notified of any common infectious diseases at the Centre, by notices posted on the door leading to the bottle prep in Babies and the front door of the Toddler and Kindy rooms.
- Children not fully immunised will be excluded from care at the discretion of the Director if there is an outbreak of a disease listed on the schedule. This protects the unimmunised child and helps prevent further spread of the infection in the Centre.
- Educators who believe they could be potentially infectious and that the infection cannot be controlled through normal hygiene procedures should remove themselves from the Centre.
- **Unless children have been to see a GP and have a medical clearance citing them fit to return to the Centre, they will be excluded for a further 24 hours after symptoms cease.**

As a general principle, children should not be brought into the Centre unless they can manage adequately with normal routines and activities.

Exclusion Guidelines:

TQEHCCCC has adopted the Department of Health's recommendations regarding the exclusion of children from the Centre because of illness, as outlined in 'Staying Healthy in Childcare'. Copies are available.

To minimise the spread of infectious diseases between everyone associated with our Centre, we will:

- Exclude any child or staff member with suspected symptoms of the following vaccine preventable diseases:
 - Diphtheria
 - Hepatitis A and B
 - Poliomyelitis
 - German Measles
 - Tetanus
 - Measles
 - Mumps
 - Whooping Cough
 - Meningococcal Disease (invasive)
 - Pneumococcal Disease (invasive)
 - Chicken Pox
- Exclude a child with mouth ulcers due to Herpes simplex virus or Coxsackie virus.

- Exclude immediately a child or staff member with any of the following symptoms that may indicate they have an infectious illness
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea (2 bowel motions)
 - Unidentified rash that has not been cleared by a medical professional.
 - Impetigo and infection or yellow/green discharge from the eyes or ears.
 - If any other infectious disease is suspected.
 - Live head lice
 - Presence of live eggs if there is suspicion that the hair has not been treated chemically.
- Exclude children, staff or any other person related to the Centre who have an excludable infectious disease other than those listed above.
- Ensure all staff and other people working at the Centre conform to this policy.

If a child develops symptoms while at the Centre we will:

- Separate the ill child from the other children
- Inform parents and arrange collection.

Make sure the child is comfortable and supervised by educators.

For more information National Health & Medical Research Council minimum periods of exclusion can be found at: [Staying healthy 5th edition](#)

***Note:** The NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council) recommends that children who are physically unwell should be excluded from attending school, pre-school and child care centres.*

Reference:

Education and Care National Regulation 2011
<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653>
 Guide to National Quality Standard 2018
https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-11/Guide-to-the-NQF_0.pdf
 Staying healthy 5th edition – Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services
<https://nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>

| Reviewed | Reviewer | Approved | Next review |
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| April 2018 | Senka Jelic Assistant Director | Management Committee | July 2019 |
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