

EXCLUSION, INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE POLICY

Rationale

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Community Child Care Centre (TQEHCCCC) follows the National Health and Medical Research Councils (NHMRC) guidelines for the 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 staff at TQEHCCCC are not medical professionals and rely on policies, procedures and documents from child care regulatory authorities and policies and procedures such as this to ensure the health and safety of all children in our care.

Maintaining hygiene practices within the centre and educating young children about health and hygiene will assist in the prevention of infectious diseases.

Providing families with current information will further support this process.

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).

NQS

QA2	2.1.2	Health practices and procedures - Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
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National Regulations

Scope

Regs	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
	85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
	86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
	87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
	88	Infectious diseases
	89	First Aid Kits
	90	Medical conditions policy
	91	Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
	162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
	168	Education and care Service must have policies and procedures
	174	Prescribed information to be notified to Regulatory Authority
	176	Time to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority

This policy applies to children, families, educators and management of the Service.

Implementation

The Policy will support TQEHCCCCC to implement measures to minimise the spread of potential infectious diseases between children by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend the service and prevent the spread of infections to staff, children, families, visitors, and volunteers or other persons attending the centre.

The Nominated Supervisor and Educators responsibility:

- 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 degrees or above, flu like symptoms, listlessness, requiring one on one attention that is out of character.
- Notify the parents or the nominated emergency contacts, if they suspect a child may have an infectious disease or a high temperature and request that the child be collected within an hour.
- The child will be relocated in a quiet space or area away from other children and their condition monitored by educators.
- Inform the parents or persons collecting child that the child will be excluded for **24 hours** and must obtain a medical certificate stating their child is not contagious and is well enough to participate fully in centre's programs.

Ensure families are aware of the policy and that if their child/ren has been unwell in the **24 hours** before coming to care eg. Undiagnosed rash, high temperature or fever they need to be excluded from the centre for **24 hours and obtain a medical clearance certificate.**

- Notify families of any infectious diseases at the centre, by notices posted on the door leading into centre and on entry doors leading to the individual children's rooms describing nature of illness; incubation period; and infectious and exclusion periods.
- Ensure families receive a copy of the relevant Medications and Medical Conditions, Immunisation and Infectious Diseases Policy and Administration of Medication Policy on enrolment.
- Ensure confidentiality of any personal or health-related information related to any child or family.
- Ensure appropriate hygiene practices are adhered to and that bedding used by child is washed and equipment used to be disinfected.
- Notify the local Public Health authority when required of notifiable disease within **24 hours.**

- Follow the Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion; 'Staying healthy Guidelines', to exclude children with infectious diseases and inform parents of exclusion and non-exclusion periods.
- **Paracetamol will not be administered** by educators unless the child has an individual seizure Action Plan.

Procedure for High Temperature:

- TQEHCCCC recognizes an excludable fever as being 38 C degrees and above and is usually an indication of an infection.
- If a child develops a high fever or symptoms develop which may consider them contagious, while at the centre, families will be notified immediately or if parents are not contactable then the nominated emergency contacts will be called to collect the child within an hour. If the fever reaches 40 degrees and parents haven't arrived to collect the child; emergency services will be contacted to attend.
- If Educators and Nominated Supervisor consider it necessary, emergency medical advice and treatment will be sought.
- Record the temperature, date, time, action taken on the '**Incident, injury, trauma and illness record**', which will be given to parents or emergency contact on arrival.
- Endeavour to reduce the fever manually through removing excess clothing and giving frequent sips of water to reduce the effects of dehydration. Monitor the child's behaviour, alertness and any other symptoms that could indicate serious infection including rash, stiffness, vomiting, coughing or convulsions
- If your child has been sent home, they will not be allowed back to child care for a full **24 hours**, or if they become unwell at home or have a known contagious illness they must not be brought to the Centre until they have a medical clearance certificate.

Procedure for Vomiting and Diarrhoea:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to collect their child from the centre if their child vomits and/or diarrhoea twice in the same day.
- The child cannot return to the Centre until **24 hours** after all symptoms have ceased.
- All Educators and Staff with symptoms of diarrhoea/vomiting must be excluded from work for **48 hours** after diarrhoea and vomiting ceases.

Children attending childcare with cold like symptoms:

Colds are the most common cause of illness in children and adults.

Symptoms include a runny or blocked nose with yellow/green discharge, sneezing and coughing, fatigue headache, a mild sore throat and possibly a slight fever.

Children can become distressed and lethargic when unwell.

With discharge coming from the children's nose and coughing, can lead to germs spreading to other children, educators and equipment

The Nominated Supervisor, Responsible person on duty or Educators have the authorisation to send children home if they appear unwell due to a cold or general illness. Educators will assess each child's general health and well-being prior to organising for them to be sent home.

If your child has been sent home and has been seen by the doctor, they will not be allowed back to child care for a full **24 hours** and must have a medical clearance before they return to child care stating they are fit to return.

If they become unwell at home or have a known contagious illness, they must not be brought to the Centre for 24 hours or until they have a have a medical clearance certificate.

Families' responsibility to the centre

- Inform the centre if their child/ren has been febrile in the last **24 hours**.
- Keep their child/ren home if they are obviously unwell or have been unwell in the **24 hours** before coming to care eg. Undiagnosed rash, high fever, cough or runny nose.
- Notify the centre of potential or confirmed infectious diseases as soon as they become aware of them.

As a general principle child should not attend the centre unless they can manage adequately with normal routines and participate in the activities at the centre.

Educators' responsibility to the centre

- Educators, volunteers and students who have had medical treatment at hospital under anaesthetics may not return to the centre until 24 hours after their release from hospital and a medical practitioner has provided them with a medical clearance citing to fit to return to the centre.
- Notify the centre of potential or confirmed infectious diseases as soon as they become aware of them.
- Educators who believe they could be potentially infectious and that the infection cannot be controlled through normal hygiene procedures should exclude themselves from the centre until they have a medical clearance from a medical practitioner stating they are fit to return to work.

Exclusion Guidelines

TQEHCCCC has adopted the Health recommendations regarding the exclusion of children from the centre due to illness as outlined in the 'Staying Healthy in Childcare.' Copies are available for families if requested and will be displayed on the doors of each room.

To minimise the spread of infectious diseases between everyone associated within our centre we will:

- Exclude any child or staff member, volunteer or student with suspected symptoms of the following vaccine preventable diseases.
 - Diphtheria
 - Chicken Pox
 - German measles
 - Hepatitis A and B
 - Measles
 - Mumps
 - Meningococcal Disease (Invasive)
 - Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)
 - Poliomyelitis
 - Tetanus
 - Whooping Cough
- Exclude a child with mouth ulcers due to Herpes simplex virus or Coxsackie virus.
- Exclude immediately a child or staff member, volunteer or student with any of the following symptoms that may indicate they have an infectious disease.
 - Conjunctivitis
 - Diarrhoea
 - Eye and Ear Discharge
 - Hand, Foot and Mouth
 - Fungal infections of the skin or nails (eg ringworm, tinea)
 - Oral thrush
 - Impetigo and infection or yellow/green discharge from the eyes or ears.
 - Live head lice
 - Presence of live eggs if there is suspicion that the hair has not been treated chemically
 - Unidentified rash that has not been cleared by a medical professional
 - Vomiting
 - If any other infectious disease is suspected.
- Exclude all children, staff member and any other person related to centre who have an excludable infectious disease other those listed above.
- Ensure all staff and other people working at the centre confirm to this Policy.

If a child develops symptoms while at the centre educators will:

- Separate the ill child from the other children
- Inform parents and arrange collection.
- Supervise and monitor the child's condition.
- Ensure the comfort and well-being of the child

Exclusion guidelines for children:

- Excluding children from the centre is an important way of preventing the introduction or re-introduction of infection into the centre. Bringing a child into the centre may cause additional stress to the child.
- Children with vomiting or diarrhoea will be excluded from the centre until they have been symptom free for **24 hours**.
- Children who are taking prescribed antibiotics need to have had the medication over a **24-hour** period before returning to the centre i.e. **the first two doses of medication will be administered at home**.
- Children who have had medical treatment at hospital or medical surgery requiring anaesthetic may not return to the centre until **24 hours** after their release from hospital and will require a medical clearance, from their medical practitioner, citing the child is fit return to the centre.
- Children who have had medical treatment at hospital or medical surgery or have been diagnosis with a condition which prevents their full participation in daily routines and activities may not return to the centre within **24 hours** and will require a medical clearance, from their medical practitioner, citing the child is fit return to the centre.

Exclusion guidelines for educators, volunteers and students:

- Excluding educators, volunteers and students from the centre is an important way of preventing the introduction or re-introduction of infection into the centre.
- Educators with vomiting or diarrhoea will be excluded from the centre until they have been symptom free for **48 hours**.
- Educator, volunteers and students who are taking prescribed antibiotics need to have had the medication over a **24 hour** period before returning to the centre i.e. **the first two doses of medication will be administered at home**.

For further information national health and Medical research Council minimum periods of exclusion can be found at: [Saying Healthy 5th Edition](#)

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

References

Education and Care National Regulations 2011

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653/chap1/reg3>

Guide to National Quality Standards

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/Guide-to-the-NQF-September-2020.pdf>

Public Health <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>

NHMRC: Staying Healthy 5th edition Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/guidelines>

ECA: Code of Ethics <http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/our-publications/eca-code-ethics/>

Ecrh: Early childhood Resource Hub Policies at <https://www.ecrh.edu.au/>

Reviewed	Reviewer	Approved	Next review
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