

Dealing with Infectious Diseases



QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

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2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.

Rationale: The centre will plan for and respond effectively to minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases. Ensuring the health and safety of children, and staff, and supporting children's ongoing wellbeing, is a core focus of the delivery of our preschool. Educators need to be aware of the likelihood of young children being exposed to an infectious illness whilst in care. Maintaining hygiene practices within the service and teaching young children about health and hygiene will assist in the prevention of infectious diseases. Providing families with timely and current information will further support this process.

Aims:

Children's exposure to infectious diseases will be minimised by:

- Our service following all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases;
- Promotion of practices that reduce the transmission of infection;
- The exclusion of sick children and staff;
- Service support for child immunisation; and
- Implementation of effective hand washing procedures.

Procedure:

Children are not to attend preschool when unwell, e.g. cold, raised temperature, gastro, pale, lethargic or cough/flu.

- Parents are to notify the Kindergarten if their child is to be absent.
- Parents are to keep their child at home until well or a doctor has given the all clear to attend Kindergarten. Please keep your child away from Kindergarten for at least 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhoea episodes to prevent the spread of infection.
- When a child shows symptoms of illness whilst at preschool, staff will care for them and contact the parent or emergency contact number.
- If there is an infectious disease at Mt Compass Preschool, the staff will ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of the infectious disease at the service.
- Infectious disease notification signs are located on the notice board near entrance and will filled in and be displayed when required.

Mt Compass Preschool will:

- Ensure that all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority, such as: You've Got What

- Implement the recommendations from You've Got What to prevent the spread of infectious diseases at the service;
- Ensure that children are reasonably protected from harm by working with the Nominated Supervisor and educators on developing, implementing and reviewing policy that will guide health and safety procedures within the service;
- and collect, maintain, and store appropriately the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children in the service.
- Develop procedures for:
 - Maintaining a hygienic environment;
 - Providing families with relevant infectious diseases, health and hygiene information;
 - Guiding children's understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program;
 - Ensuring staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children; and maintaining relevant records regarding the current status of the immunisation of children at the service, as well as any relevant medical conditions of children at the service.
 - An enrolment procedure that captures all required information regarding the children's immunisation status, and any medical conditions.

Provide relevant sourced materials to families about:

- In the event of an infectious illness at the service, seek advice and as to how best to manage the situation and share relevant information with the community within confidentiality guidelines.
- Provide information to families as soon as practicable of the occurrence of an infectious disease that describe the:
 - nature of illness;
 - incubation period; and
 - infectious and exclusion periods.
- Ensuring that an "Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness" record is completed as soon as practicable or no later than 24 hours of the illness occurring;
 - Ensure that all educators are aware of individual children's circumstances i.e. Director relay relevant children's details from enrolment form to staff team before children commence preschool;
 - Maintaining confidentiality with regards to children's individual medical circumstances, by putting procedures in place to safeguard children and families personal information;
 - Provide regular reminders to families to keep information in children's enrolment records up to date (immunisation), ensuring that this occurs as required;
 - For exclusion of educators as well as children in the event of an infectious illness;
 - Providing opportunities for educators to source relevant up to date information on the prevention of infectious diseases, and maintaining health and hygiene from trusted sources;
 - Ensuring opportunities for educators and families to be involved in the review of the policies and procedures regarding children's health and safety; and
 - Inform and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding infectious diseases as required.

Educators will:

- Ensure that any children that are suspected of having an infectious illness are responded to and their health and emotional needs supported at all times;
- Implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when tending to ill children;
- Ensure that families are aware of the need to collect their children as soon as practicable to ensure the child's comfort;
- Advise families that they will need to alert the service if their child is diagnosed with an infectious illness;
- Provide varied opportunities for children to engage in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice;
- Take into consideration the grouping of children to reduce the risk of acquiring an infectious illness when planning the routines/program of the day;
- Implement the service's health and hygiene policy including:
 - hand washing – washing and drying thoroughly;
 - routine and daily cleaning of the service;
 - nappy changing procedures (when necessary);
 - wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids); and
 - proper handling and preparation of food.
- Provide opportunities for staff, children and families to have access to health professionals by organising visits/guest speakers to attend the service to ensure that practices in place at the service are correct; and
- Maintain currency with regard to Health and Safety by attending appropriate professional development opportunities.

Families will:

- Advise the service of their child's immunisation status, and provide a copy of the immunisation register for their child;
- Advise the service when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated and provide this information to updated document

Evaluation

Infection control is effectively managed at the service to ensure children remain healthy and transmission of infectious diseases are minimised.

Sources

1. DFE: Health Resources for DFE
2. First Aid Training HLTAID004- Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting
3. Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority, February 2018, National Quality Framework Resource Kit
4. Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council: Staying Healthy in Childcare Preventing Infectious Diseases in Childcare
5. SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch (1300 232 272)

Table 1: Revision Record – Started March 2024

VERSION	APPROVAL DATE	NEXT REVIEW	REVISION DESCRIPTION
1.1	April 2024	June 2026	Whole of policy reviewed and sourced now.

Endorsed by Governing Council April 2024 Review June 2026

