

4. Dealing with Infectious Diseases

Purpose

At OSHC, effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented. Plans are developed, documented practised and implemented to manage incidents and emergencies in consultation with relevant authorities effectively.

The service builds relationships and engages with its community partnerships that assist in supporting children's access, inclusion and participation in the OSHC program.

Scope

NQF Quality Area 2	Children's Health and Safety
Standard 2.1.3 Healthy Lifestyle	
Standard 2.2 Safety	
Standard 2.2.2 Incident and Emergency Management	
NQF Quality Area 6	Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities
Standard 6.2 Collaborative Relationships	Element 6.6 Access and Participation
	Element 6.2.3 Community Engagement
NQF Quality Area 7	Governance & Leadership
Standard 7.1 Governance	Element 7.1.2 Management Systems

Guidelines

The service aims to ensure that children are cared for in a safe, healthy environment.

However, in the event of a child/ren coming into contact or potentially in contact with an infectious disease, this policy outlines what families/caregivers can expect from the service.

Children suffering from infectious diseases will be excluded from OSHC for the length of time specified or on the written advice from the child's medical practitioner and/or on the advice from the Department of Education, Health Services or SAHealth.

If a child with an infectious disease is in attendance at the service the Director will:

- Withdraw the child from the main group, assess their health condition and maintain surveillance until a parent can collect the child.
- If other children have been recently diagnosed with an infectious disease of similar symptoms, the families will be informed.
- If a parent cannot be contacted, contact will be made with emergency contacts.

Where a child does not have to be collected immediately, precautions, as described in Staying Healthy in Child Care, will be implemented.

Where a child with an infectious disease has attended the service, families of children in attendance that day, or the previous day will be notified as soon as practicable.

This will include ensuring information regarding the occurrence and nature of the infectious disease is prominently displayed on the parent notice board above the sign in sheet.

Confidentiality will be maintained, and only the name and nature of the infectious disease will be disclosed.

The service will act to prevent the spread of infectious diseases/infestations by:

- Ensuring current information about infectious diseases is held at the service.
- Providing information to families in the OSHC information pack re infectious diseases and exclusion.
- Providing appropriate hand washing facilities and supplies.
- Encouraging effective hand washing techniques.
- Providing appropriate first aid supplies.
- Providing information about immunisation.
- Regularly disinfecting and cleaning all equipment.

4. Dealing with Infectious Diseases (continued)

- Ensuring that there is no sharing of drinking/eating utensils.
- In the case of head lice, removing any soft furnishings and restricting access until the immediate risk passes.

If a child is suspected of being infested with head lice:

- Families will be notified as soon as possible (at least by the end of the day) and provided with information about treatment options.
- Families will be informed that the child will only be re-admitted to OSHC after approved, and appropriate treatment has been administered.
- Isolation of children with head lice is not considered necessary. Educators will engage the group in activities that minimise head-to-head contact.
- Other families will be advised when there is an infestation of head lice within the service.

Roles and responsibilities

The OSHC Director will be responsible for:

- The implementation of the policy.
- Ensuring that timely communication has occurred with the families of child with an infectious disease and other OSHC families.
- Ensure that documentation regarding the infectious disease and the actions taken by the service comply with regulations.
- Ensuring the service holds information on specific diseases and exclusion periods.
- The child has completed the applicable exclusion period as outlined in the current edition of Staying Healthy in Child Care.
- Ensure that information regarding the infectious disease is available to families.

Monitor, report and review

Author	School Principal Sharron Ward	March 2020
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Approved	Governing Council	June 2020
Review Date		

Resource Documents

- 1) Staying Healthy in Child Care
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>
- 2) Infectious Diseases in Child Care (National Health and Medical Research Council)
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/staying-healthy-preventing-infectious-diseases-early-childhood-education-and-care-services>

5. Dealing with Medical Conditions