

Dealing with Infectious Diseases

POLICY STATEMENT:

SHARE will provide a safe and hygienic environment that will promote the health and wellbeing of the children (*"My Time, Our Place"* Outcome 3). We will take all reasonable steps to prevent and manage the spread of infectious diseases through the implementation of procedures that are consistent with guidelines of State Health Authorities.

PROCEDURE:

A. Prevention: Due to COVID19 some practices have changed.

- Universal precautions will be consistently applied across service practices to ensure prevention of the spread of infections is effective.
- A regularly updated copy of the Department of Health guidelines on infectious diseases will be kept at the service for reference by educators, staff, management and families.
- If a child is showing symptoms of an infectious disease whilst at home, families are not permitted to bring the child to the service. Children who appear unwell when being signed in by their family will not be permitted to be left at the service. **Children's temperatures will be taken in the morning and at school. Temperature higher than 37.5 families will be asked to come and collect child and have child tested.**
- Hand washing will be practised by all educators and children upon entering the service, before preparing or eating food and after all dirty tasks such as toileting, cleaning up any items, wiping a nose, before and after administering first aid, playing outside or handling an animal. In addition educators will wash their hands before leaving the service.
- The service will be cleaned daily and rosters maintained as evidence of the cleaning tasks being undertaken.
- All toilet facilities will have access to a basin or sink with running water and soap and paper towel for washing and drying hands.
- Women and girls will have access to proper feminine hygiene disposal.
- Soap and paper towel will also be available in the kitchen area.
- All toilets, hand basins and kitchen facilities used by the service will be cleaned and sanitised daily. General surfaces will be cleaned with cleaning product/sanitised after each activity and at the end of the day and all contaminated surfaces will be sanitised
- Toys will be washed, cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis with material items such as dress ups and cushion cover laundered as required but a minimum of quarterly.
- Educators will maintain and model appropriate hygiene practices and encourage the children to adopt effective hygiene practices. As part of children taking increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing, educators should acknowledge children who are modelling hygiene practices.
- Informal education in proper hygiene practices will be conducted on a regular basis, either individually or as a group through conversations, planned experiences, inclusion in service routines and reminders. Health and hygiene practices will be highlighted to parents, and where appropriate information sheets or posters will be used by educators to support these practices.
- Educators will aim to provide a non-judgmental approach to differences in hygiene practices and standards between families in order to support children's developing sense of identity. Where practices differ to standards expected in the service, educators are to remind children that these are practices to be followed in the service but they may be different for them at home.
- All educators will be advised upon appointment to the position to maintain their immunity to common childhood diseases, tetanus and Hepatitis B through immunisation with their local health professional

B Management of Infectious Diseases: Due to COVID19 some practices have changed.

- Children and staff with infectious diseases will be excluded from the service for the period recommended by the Department of Health. If it is due to COVID19 SHARE will follow the advice from NSW Health and if recommended to close the service, have the service cleaned and will reopen when given the all clear by NSW Health. If advised by NSW Health Educators, staff and families will self-isolate for 14 days and be COVID tested. See SHARES action plan in COVID19 file in office.
- Where there is an outbreak of an infectious disease, each enrolled child's family/emergency contact will be notified within 24 hours via a notice, email, or phone call under ordinary circumstances. The service will maintain confidentiality when issuing the notification and ensure it is not prejudicial or identify any children. Educator's will follow SHARES COVID19 action plan
- In the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease at the service or school attended by children at service, parents of children not immunised will be required to stay at home for the duration of the outbreak, for their own protection.
- If a child develops symptoms of a possible infectious disease whilst at the service, their family will be contacted to take the child home. Where they are not available, emergency contacts will be called to ensure the child is removed from the service promptly. An Incident, injury and Trauma form will be completed. Child will be isolated in sick bay and wear a mask. Sick bay bed is to be changed and the room sanitised. Educators are to wear PPE whilst performing this task
- All educators dealing with open sores, cuts and bodily fluids shall wear disposable gloves and practice universal precautions. PPE is available Educator's to wear for this purpose.
- Educators with cuts, open wounds or skin diseases such as dermatitis should cover their wounds and wear disposable gloves.
- Disposable gloves and masks will be properly and safely discarded and staff are to wash their hands after doing so.
- If a child has an open wound it will be covered with a waterproof dressing and securely attached.
- If bodily fluids or blood gets on the skin but there is no cut or puncture, wash away with hot soapy water.
- In the event of exposure through cuts or chapped skin, promptly wash away the fluid, encourage bleeding and wash in cold or tepid soapy water.
- In the event of exposure to the mouth, promptly spit it out and rinse mouth with water several times.
- In the event of exposure to the eyes, promptly rinse gently with cold or tepid tap water or saline solution.
- In the event of having to perform CPR, disposable sterile mouth masks are to be used, or if unavailable a piece of cloth. Due to Covid19 this practice is no longer advised
- Any exposure should be reported to the Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor and management to ensure proper follow up procedures occur.
- When assisting children with toileting and nappy changing staff will ensure that they wear gloves and a mask, plus disposable apron, and wash their hands afterwards. They will also encourage the child to wash their hands.
- Staff will consider the resources they are using when assisting school age children when toileting to ensure they are age appropriate and ensure privacy for the child and ease of use by staff.
- Any soiled clothing shall be handled using disposable gloves and mask and be placed in a sealed plastic bag for the parents to take home for laundering. The service will never rinse soiled clothing.
- Any blood or bodily fluid spills will be cleaned up immediately, using gloves and the area fully sanitised. Cloths used in cleaning will be wrapped in plastic bags and properly disposed of according to current infection control guidelines.

- The Public Health Unit will be notified if any child contracts a vaccine-preventable disease.
- Payment of fees will be required for children during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, unless other arrangements discussed and agreed to by the management committee, have been made.
- The Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor will at all times follow the recommendations as outlined in the Health Department document.
- The decision to exclude or re-admit a child or educator will be the responsibility of the Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor based on the child's symptoms, medical opinion and Department of Health guidelines for children who have an infectious disease or who have been exposed to an infectious disease. **Follow NSW Health guidelines if due to COVID19**
- The Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor or Educators have the right to refuse access if concerned about the child's health.
- A doctor's clearance certificate will be required for all infectious diseases such as measles, mumps diphtheria, hepatitis A, polio, tuberculosis, typhoid and paratyphoid before returning to the service.
- **A copy of A COVID19 negative result from NSW Health will need to be sent to the service before any child, family member, close child contact, educator or staff member is allowed back to the service.**

D. Reportable Diseases:

SHARE will notify their local public health unit if any child or educator contracts a vaccine preventable disease.

Under the NSW Public Health Act 210, the service must notify the following 9 vaccine preventable diseased to the local public health unit 1300 066 055.

- Diphtheria.
- Haemophilus influesnza tye b (Hib)
- Measles,
- Meningococcal C,
- Mumps
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Poliomyelitis
- Rubella.
- Tetanus

Nominated supervisors will be encouraged to seek advice from their local PHU when they suspect an infectious disease outbreak is affecting their service, such as an outbreak of gastrointestinal or respiratory illness. (COVID19)

The Public Health Unit may need to review the services immunisation register to determins which children are at risk form an outbreak.

Following assessment of the situation, th epublic health officer may instruct the nonimated supervisors to exclude certain children for apweriod, or provide advice regarding reventiver measures.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Education and Care Services National Regulations	National Quality Standard	Other Service policies/ documentation	Other
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<p>S167 R77, 85, 86, 87, 88, 106, 109</p>	<p>Standard 2.1 Elements 2.1.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent Handbook - Staff Handbook - Enrolment and Orientation Policy - Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy - Incident, Injury, Illness and Trauma Policy - Confidentiality Policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability Discrimination Act 1975 - NSW Anti-discrimination Act 1977 - Work Health and Safety Act 2011 - Staying Healthy in Child Care (5th Edition) - NSW Dept. of Health guidelines
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ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:

Approval date:

Date for Review: