



Infectious Disease & Illness Policy

Rationale:

Infectious diseases, as specified on the Ministry of Health Infectious Diseases list, especially notifiable ones, are a threat to the community and place the adults and children who work within the Centre environment at risk. No adult or child within the Centre environment should be put at an unnecessary risk.

Reference:

Licensing Criteria 2008, Health and Safety, Child Health & Wellbeing, documentation required:

- **HS26:** All practicable steps are taken to ensure that children do not come into contact with any person (adult or child) on the premises who is suffering from a disease or condition likely to be passed onto children and likely to have a detrimental effect on them.

Specifically:

- the action specified in Appendix 2 is taken for any person (adult or child) suffering from particular infectious diseases; and
- children who become unwell while attending the service are kept at a safe distance from other children (to minimise the spread of infection) and returned to the care of a parent or other person authorised to collect the child without delay.

Objective:

The criterion aims to uphold the health and safety of children by preventing undue exposure to disease or illness while attending the service.

Procedure:

- Any adult or child suffering from an infectious disease as listed on Appendix 2 of the Ministry of Education Licensing Criteria *or* if not listed here, the Ministry of Health Infectious Diseases list, will be excluded from the Centre according to the recommendations on these documents.
- Exclusion for any other illnesses will be at the discretion of Centre management and may also be in consultation with Local Public Health Services (ie Public Health Nurse).

- For some vaccine preventable diseases, there is a requirement to exclude unimmunised children who have had contact with a case of the disease. This applies to measles, diphtheria and whooping cough and would be arranged on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health.
- A child suffering from any of the following symptoms will be required to leave the centre as soon as possible at the discretion of the staff. If a parent is unavailable or unable to remove their child soon enough, the emergency contact person listed on the child's enrolment form may be contacted:
 - Fever,
 - Persistent crying,
 - difficulty breathing,
 - persistent coughing,
 - or other signs of possible illness or disease.
- Confidentiality will apply unless for safety purposes it is deemed necessary to contact/inform other parties of relevant detail, names will not be used.
- No child with diarrhea should attend and they should have at least one normal bowel motion at least 48 hours before returning.
- No child with vomiting in the previous 48 hours should attend, unless the vomiting is known to be caused by a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- A child prescribed antibiotics for any illness should not return until at least 3 days after treatment has started.
- We reserve the right to request a medical certificate from a health professional before being allowing a child to return from illness.
- Any serious, notifiable disease will be reported to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

Implementation:

All practicable steps are taken to ensure that children do not come into contact with any person (adult or child) on the premises who is suffering from a disease or condition likely to be passed onto children and likely to have a detrimental effect on them.

Review Schedule:

Introduction Date: 20 th October 2016			
Next Review Date:	20 th October 2017	20 October 2020	October 2023
Changes:	Procedure updated from previous Infectious Disease/ Illness Policy	Minor word changes	
Consultation Taken:	One day workshop with staff board & consultation with families	Staff consultation	