

# ST JOSEPH'S PRESCHOOL

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY



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PORT LINCOLN  
*In all things love*

To be read with - Immunisation and Disease Prevention Policy

### 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

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
	90	Medical conditions policy
	162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

### Policy statement

Our service aims to create a safe and healthy environment, free of infectious diseases, for children and staff at our service.

### Related Policies

- Educator and Management Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- Food Nutrition and Beverage Policy
- Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Immunisation Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

### Who is Affected by This Policy?

- Child
- Parents
- Family
- Educators
- Management



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Visitors  
Volunteers

## Implementation

Educators and the Nominated Supervisor will:

- 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 facilitating the prevention and effective management of acute illness in children
- notify the local public health authority when required of notifiable disease within 24 hours
- follow the Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion (see below) to exclude children with infectious diseases and inform parents of exclusion and non-exclusion periods.

Educators will also advise the Nominated Supervisor as soon as they believe they have an infectious disease and are unable to care for children.

Children might be brought to care with symptoms or signs of illness or while in care suddenly develop an illness that has not been diagnosed by a doctor, and that might be potentially infectious or potentially life-threatening for the child. Symptoms may not clearly fit those listed in exclusion diseases making it difficult for educators to decide whether to accept or exclude the child. **If educators suspect a child may have an infectious disease, they will exclude the child until they receive a medical certificate stating the child is not contagious and is okay to attend the Service.**

Parents must advise educators on arrival verbally or in writing of any symptoms requiring administration of medication to their child in the past 48 hours and the cause of the symptoms if known. This advice must be provided the first time the child attends after the medication has been administered.

Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care, and can make a child too ill to participate in normal activities. All children who are unwell should not attend the Service and educators will ask parents of children who are unwell to collect the child from the venue within one hour or to make alternative arrangements for their child's care.

The Director will:

- assist educators in making notification to public health authorities and following any directives including:



- providing information about the names and dates of birth of enrolled children, immunisation records for each child and parent/guardian contact details within 24 hours of a request by the Chief Public health Officer
- excluding a child who has not been vaccinated against a vaccine preventable notifiable infectious disease
- organise a pool of regular relief educators to cover educators who are ill and unable to care for children
- request a medical certificate from educators who have been ill stating they are not contagious and are okay to return to work

**If an infectious disease arises at a centre educators will respond to any symptoms in the following manner -**

- Isolate the child from other children
- Ensure the child is comfortable and appropriately supervised
- Contact the child's parents or nominated emergency contact (if the child's parents are unavailable we will contact authorised nominees) and ask them to pick the child up as quickly as possible (within one hour).
- Any person picking the child up from the service must be able to show identification if unknown to the educator
- Ensure all bedding, towels and clothing which has been used by the child are washed separately and if possible air dried in the sun
- Ensure all toys used by the child are disinfected
- Ensure all eating utensils used by the child are separated and sterilised.
- Inform all families of the presence of an infectious disease verbally and by placing a notice near the front door. The child's name will not be revealed
- Ensure confidentiality of any personal or health related information related to any child or family

## **Fevers**

Unwell children include those with fevers. Fevers refer to temperatures above 38°C, and are usually a sign of infection (such as a virus). When children develop a fever at the service, educators and staff will:

- contact parents and ask them to collect the child. Parents will also be advised fever can be a symptom of a serious illness and they should also consider taking their child to the doctor



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- administer first aid if required in line with service procedures. This may include calling an ambulance.
- offer water to the child and ensure they are not overdressed and their clothing is comfortable
- monitor the child's behaviour, alertness and any other symptoms that could indicate serious infection including rash, stiffness, vomiting, coughing or convulsions
- remind parents that ill children must stay home. If child returns the following day with illness or fever the parents will be called to collect child again.

## **Communicable Disease Control Branch - Advice and Notifications**

The Communicable Disease Control Branch is an important source of information and advice about many contagious/notifiable diseases including measles, meningococcal disease, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), hepatitis A, and pertussis (whooping cough). The Director will telephone the Branch on 1300 232 272 as soon as possible when needed/appropriate for advice about an illness and how to control the spread of the illness and follow any advice. In particular the Director will always phone the Branch as soon as possible (and within 24 hours) when there are:

- two or more cases (children or staff) of gastroenteritis in the centre (including norovirus, rotavirus, salmonellosis which are types of gastroenteritis) within 48 hours of each other. Symptoms include diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, abdominal cramps
- if there are two or more cases (children or staff) of Shigellosis which is a severe intestinal infection. Symptoms include diarrhoea, fever, vomiting and cramps

Note only doctors and pathologists must make notifications for the 'notifiable diseases' listed in the South Australian Public Health (Notifiable and Controlled Notifiable Conditions) Regulations 2012.

## **Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion**

St Joseph's Preschool will follow recommended periods of exclusion as set out by National Health and Medical Research Council Staying Healthy -Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services 5th edition, Commonwealth of Australia 2012.

[ch55-staying-healthy.pdf \(nhmrc.gov.au\)](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf)



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## Sources

Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations

National Quality Standard

Department of Health and Aging, National Immunisation Program Schedule

NHMRC. Staying Healthy -Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services 5th edition

SA Public Health Act 2011

South Australian Public Health (Notifiable and Controlled Notifiable Conditions) Regulations 2012

SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch

## Review

The policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties