

Dealing with infectious diseases

Purpose

The health, safety and wellbeing of children in our services is our highest priority. ECMS will provide an environment that:

- Nurtures children
- Minimises the risk of injury, illness and the spread of any infection

We will inform and educate the service community on childhood illness, safety and wellbeing

ECMS will as far as practicable and in partnership with families, provide a safe and healthy environment in which all children can participate equally and to the full extent of their capabilities in all aspects of the children's programs and experiences.

Principles

ECMS:

- Identifies three aspects to managing infectious diseases: exclusion, immunisation and effective hand washing hygiene practices.
- Respects the primary role of families; their values and expectations will be considered when assessing risk and making decisions about infection control and other health issues.
- Values and nurtures the uniqueness of each child; we will listen to children and include them in decision making.
- Responds to the specific needs of the children we serve; each child will be considered when assessing risk and making decisions about infection control and other health issues.
- Provides access to resources and opportunities for learning; families will be provided with information about illness and injury prevention.
- Recognises that children are both vulnerable and capable; children will be taught to care for their own and others' health.
- Ensures the commitment to child health and safety is clear and shared by all.
- Educates staff, students, FDC educators and volunteers about child health and safety.

Procedures

Infectious Diseases

The *responsible person/ nominated supervisor* and *Family Day Care educators* will:

- Display the children's services exclusion table in a prominent position within the service.

- Display the current local immunisation dates, times and locations at the service.
- Notify the Department of Health Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Unit 1300 253 942 if a child is suffering from a vaccine preventable disease and seek advice on identifying the cause, explaining the consequences, appropriate control measures and exclusion of cases and contacts.
- Comply with the exclusion requirements for infectious diseases Children's services exclusion table.
- Notify parents/guardians of any outbreak of an infectious disease within the service, or if the child is in Family Day Care, the parents of children attending the same residence or venue. At the least this will involve displaying the information in a prominent position.
- Provide staff and families with up to date and accurate information on childhood illnesses and diseases and immunisation.
- Request and require parent/guardians to:
 - Notify the service if their child has an infectious disease.
 - Provide accurate and current information regarding the immunisation status of their child/children when they enrol and any subsequent changes to this while they are attending the service.
 - Keep their child away from the service for the time required by the Illness procedures and/or the children's services exclusion table or until a medical certificate of clearance is provided.
 - Keep an unimmunised child away from the service for the time required by the children's services exclusion table

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis

For the child/ren's benefit, parents should inform the nominated supervisors of these infections. This information will be confidential and not distributed to educators and families as a whole.

Head Lice

Head lice are small wingless blood sucking insects. Their colour varies from whitish brown to reddish brown. Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head they die very quickly, usually within 24 hours.

People get head lice from direct hair to hair contact with another person who has head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl.

The nominated supervisor/educators placed in day to day charge/FDC educator will

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardian and staff/educators at the
- beginning of the year or more frequently if required;
- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff/educators attending/employed at ECMS;
- Include information and updates in newsletters;
- Include annual head lice updates for staff/educators in-service programs;
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures;
- Access community educational resources and support, community health centres and local government;
- Accept the responsibility to exclude children from the service who have live insects
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced;
- Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or

'bullying' associated with the issue;

- Request that all families attending ECMS sign an agreement on the enrolment form to accept the conditions of the ECMS head lice policy;
- Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required;
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the ECMS community especially around issues of Head Lice;
- Continue to seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice.

All ECMS staff/educators will:

- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the ECMS community especially around issues of head lice;
- Support parents/guardian and the broader ECMS community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management

Parents/guardians attending an ECMS will:

- Check children's hair for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;
- Not send their child to a service with untreated head lice ;
- Accept the responsibility to exclude their child from the service who have live insects until treatment commences
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary;
- Notify the nominated supervisor/educators placed in day to day charge/FDC educator if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced;
- Ensure children with long hair will have hair tied back;
- Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice;
- Notify the parents /guardian of child's friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary;
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.

IMMUNISATION - Please refer to Operations 2.7 Immunisation

The nominated supervisor will ensure:

- Immunisation records are to be presented at the time the child is enrolled, and families are asked to update the services record at the time of each immunisation thereafter.
- The child's parents/guardians will be informed if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease and the child may be required to be excluded from the service until the disease outbreak is under control. Non immunised children will be added to the services "Non Immunised Register" with parent/guardian contact details.
- Signs are posted and emails sent to alert families if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease present at the service site.
- Information about immunisation and infectious diseases is available and can be translated into several different languages for parents/guardian and staff/educators if required.

Educators:

Are encouraged to discuss vaccinations with their own treating doctor, in particular for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, Chickenpox, Whooping Cough and Influenza

Policy Created Date	March 2014, reviewed September 2015, August 2016
Policy Review Date	September 2018
Relevant Legislation	<p>Education and Care Services National Law 2010: Section 167, 174 Education and Care National Regulations 2011: Regulations 77,85 - 97, 160 - 162, 168, 176 - 178</p> <p>Education and Care Services National Regulations: Regulation 4, 88, 162, 168 (2) (c)</p> <p>Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001</p> <p>Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009</p> <p>Information Privacy Act 2000</p> <p>Health Records Act 2001</p>
Relevant NQS	<p>Quality area: Children's health and safety 2.1, 2.2.3</p> <p>Collaborative partnerships with families and children 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.2.1, 6.2.2</p> <p>Relationships with children: 5.2.3</p> <p>Leadership and service management: 7.3.1, 7.3.3, 7.3.5</p>
References & Resources	<p>Minimum Period of Exclusion from Primary Schools and Children's Services Centres for Infectious Diseases Cases and Contacts (Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009) available from http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/guidelines/school-exclusion-table.asp</p> <p>www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas has a range of resources and information</p> <p>Blue book - Guidelines for the control of infectious diseases http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/bluebook.asp</p> <p>Better Health Channel http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcsite.nsf?open&utm_source=health&utm_medium=ideas&utm_campaign=null</p> <p>Immunisation http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/hl_immunisation?open</p> <p>Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit, Department of Health Telephone: 1300 651 160 After hours: 1300 790 733 Email: infectious.diseases@health.vic.gov.au</p> <p>National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Staying Healthy in Child Care, 4th edition, available at http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/ch43 or email health@nationalmailing.com.au or telephone 02 6269 1080.</p> <p>Hand Health Australia http://www.hha.org.au</p> <p>World Health Organisation: Alcohol based hand rubs risks/hazards http://www.who.int/gpsc/tools/faqs/abhr2/en/index.html retrieved 13/5/12</p> <p>Insurance Guide for Community Service Organisations http://www.vmia.vic.gov.au</p> <p>FDCA public liability insurance http://www.familydaycare.com.au/index.php/main/Insurance#M64</p> <p>Head lice http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/</p> <p>SIDS and Kids. Telephone: 9822 9611 24 hours grief support 1300 308 307 http://www.sidsandkids.org/</p> <p>Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011</p>

Attachments

Attachment 1: Infection Control Procedures