

Quality Area 2: Dealing with Infectious Diseases Procedure Early Childhood Education

Dealing with Infectious Diseases Procedure

Procedure – infectious diseases

The nominated supervisor/person in daily charge 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 in line with the Children’s Services Exclusion Table
- Notify all parents/guardians of any outbreak of an infectious disease within the service as soon as is practically possible. At a minimum this will involve displaying information about any outbreak in a prominent position (i.e. on the front door and doors in the rooms of the service)
- Provide staff and families with up to date and accurate information on childhood illnesses and diseases and immunisation
- Ensure parent/guardians are aware of their role in preventing the spread of infection diseases by undertaking the following action:
 - 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 a fully unimmunised child away from the service for the time required by the children’s services exclusion table.

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Procedure - HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis

Although there is no legal requirement for parents to notify the centre of a child's HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis status, ECMS recommends that parents inform the Nominated Supervisor of the status of the child in the best interests of the child. This information will be treated confidentially in line with the ECMS Privacy Policy.

Procedure – head lice

The nominated supervisor/Educators placed in day to day charge will:

- Exclude children from the service who have live head lice to prevent an outbreak
- Ensure all families attending ECMS sign the agreement on the enrolment form to accept the conditions of the ECMS head lice policy
- Provide regular and up to date 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 on treatment of head lice and support families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures: e.g. demonstrations on how to treat or referral pathways to health services such as Maternal Child and Health Services (MCHN)
- Access community educational resources and support from community health centres and local government.

All ECMS staff/Educators will:

- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with children and families experiencing head lice
- Support parents/guardian and the broader ECMS community to maintain a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management.

Parents/guardians attending an ECMS are required:

- Not send their child to a service with untreated head lice
- Notify the nominated supervisor/Educators placed in day to day charge if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced.

Procedure – immunisation

Please refer to the ECE Immunisation Policy and Procedure.

The nominated supervisor will ensure:

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- Immunisation records are presented at the time the child is enrolled and updated at the time of each immunisation thereafter. Copies of these are to be kept on children's files/enrolments
- Parents/guardians will be informed if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease and children 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.

ECMS staff:

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

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