

# Infectious Diseases Policy

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Infectious Diseases are a threat to the health and welfare of the community if they are not treated with caution and respect. Families and educators are therefore required to make known any condition that is potentially harmful to others. Walkerville primary OSHC aims to minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children, their families, volunteers and educators by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or who are too ill to attend the service.

Our service is committed to:

- providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, educators and any other persons attending the service.
- responding to the needs of the child or adult who presents with symptoms of an infectious disease or infestation while attending the service.
- complying with current exclusion schedules and guidelines set by SA Health.
- providing up-to-date information and resources for families and staff regarding protection of all children from infectious diseases and blood-borne viruses, management of infestations and immunisation programs.

### **Definitions**

**Blood-borne virus (BBV):** A virus that is spread when blood from an infected person enters another person's bloodstream. Examples of blood-borne viruses include human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B, hepatitis C and viral haemorrhagic fevers. Where basic hygiene, safety, infection control and first aid procedures are followed, the risks of contracting a blood-borne virus is negligible.

**Exclusion:** Inability to attend or participate in the program at the service.

**Hand hygiene** is a general term referring to any action of hand cleansing. It includes hand washing with soap and water and using antimicrobial hand rubs (for example, an alcohol-based hand rub). For more detailed information about hand hygiene, see: Personal Hygiene in Related policies

**Illness:** Any sickness and/or associated symptoms that affect the child's normal participation in the program at the service.

**Immunisation status:** The extent to which a child has been immunised in relation to the recommended immunisation schedule.

**Infectious diseases** are diseases caused by pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi; the diseases can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another.

**Medication:** Any substance, as defined in the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Cth), that is administered for the treatment of an illness or medical condition.

**Recommended minimum exclusion period:** The period recommended by the Department of Health for excluding any person from attending a children's service to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through interpersonal contact. The exclusion period table, published by the Department of Health, can be accessed at <http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/Minimum-Period-of-Exclusion-fromPrimary-Schools-and-Childrens-Services-Centres-for-Infectious-Diseases-Cases-and-Contacts>

**Pandemic** A pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new disease.

**Respiratory hygiene or cough** etiquette are terms used to describe infection prevention measures. Practices include:

- covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with elbow.
- using tissues and disposing of them appropriately.
- attending to hand hygiene immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing nose.

**Severe disease outbreaks** occurs when a disease occurs in greater numbers than expected in a community or region or during a season. It can be associated with high rates of serious illness and death.

**Standard precautions** are the minimum infection prevention and control practices that must be used at all times for all people in all situations. The use of standard precautions aims to minimise and, where possible, eliminate the risk of transmission of infection.

## 2. **SCOPE**

This policy applies to students, families, volunteers and educators at the service.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **(a) The Approved Provider (Walkerville Primary Governing Council Inc) will:**

- support the Nominated Supervisor and the educators at the service to implement the requirements of the recommended minimum exclusion periods
- conduct a thorough inspection of the service on a regular basis, and consulting with educators to assess any risks by identifying the hazards and potential sources of infection.
- ensure that the Nominated Supervisor, staff and everyone at the service adheres to the Hand Washing and Hygiene Policy and the procedures for infection control relating to infectious disease.
- ensure that appropriate and current information and resources are provided to educators and families regarding the identification and management of infectious diseases, blood-borne viruses and infestations.
- keeping informed about current legislation, information, research and best practice.

#### **(b) A Nominated Supervisor/Certified Supervisor and educators will:**

- ensure that where there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service, reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of that infectious disease (see infectious disease plan).
- ensure that where there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service, a parent/guardian or authorised emergency contact of each child at the service is notified of the occurrence as soon as is practicable.
- ensure that information from the SA Health about the recommended minimum exclusion periods is displayed at the service, is available to all stakeholders and is adhered to in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease.
- ensure that a child who is not immunised against a vaccine-preventable disease does not attend the service when that infectious disease is diagnosed, and does not return until there are no more occurrences of that disease at the service and the recommended minimum exclusion period has ceased.
- notifying DECD within 24 hours when a child becomes ill with an infectious disease at the service or medical attention is sought while the child is attending the service.

- we keep Emergency Contact Information for each child in the service. It is important that this information be kept up to date with regard to changes of address, contact numbers, doctor etc. Please inform educators of any changes to be made promptly.

#### **4. PROCEDURE**

- Child found attending the service who have an infectious disease will be quarantined at the service in the first aid room and first aid administered where necessary.
- The child's emergency contacts will be contacted immediately by nominated supervisor/educators. They will be asked to come collect their child from the service.
- All areas will be cleaned, the families will be informed a child has contracted an infectious disease and notices will be displayed in the main OSHC room and on SkoolBag application. Confidentiality will be maintained and only the name and nature of the infectious disease will be disclosed.
- Any child that has symptoms of the infectious disease will need to have a medical certificate and have completed the applicable exclusion period as outlined in the current edition of Staying Healthy in Child Care (website below) to return to the service.
- [https://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/transcripts/1302\\_healthy2.pdf](https://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/transcripts/1302_healthy2.pdf)
- Nominated Supervisor/ educators will follow the guidelines from SA Health.
- Following the guidelines of SA Health website in the event the infectious disease is declared a pandemic by the Australian Government/ World Health Organisation our service will follow the advice from South Australian Government website (see below).
- <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/health-wellbeing-and-special-needs/infectious-diseases-and-exclusion>

#### **5. SOURCES**

- ACECQA - Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018
- My Time Our Place 2019

#### **6. REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or when required by the Governing Council, Management Committee, Educators and families.

## **7. LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES**

### **National Quality Standard**

Quality Area 2- Children's Health. & Safety **2.1** Health **2.2** Safety

Quality Area 3- Physical Environment **3.1** Design

Quality Area 4 - Staffing Arrangements **4.2** Professionalism

Quality Area 6 - Collaborative partnerships with Families and Communities **6.1** Supportive relationships with families **6.2** Collaborative partnerships

Quality Area 7- Governance & Leadership **7.1** Governance **7.2** Leadership

### **Education And Care Services National Regulations**

**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

**89** First aid kits

**90** Medical conditions policy

**91** Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents

**92** Medication record

**93** Administration of medication

**94** Exception to authorisation requirement—anaphylaxis or asthma emergency

**95** Procedure for administration of medication

**96** Self-administration of medication

**97** Emergency and evacuation procedures

**98** Telephone or other communication equipment

**99** Children leaving the education and care service premises

**100** Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion

**101** Conduct of risk assessment for excursion

**103** Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair

**106** Laundry and hygiene facilities

**107** Space requirements—indoor space

**109** Toilet and hygiene facilities

**117A** Placing a person in day-to-day charge

**117B** Minimum requirements for a person in day-to-day charge

**117C** Minimum requirements for a nominated supervisor

**136** First aid qualifications

**155** Interactions with children

**157** Access for parents

## **Legislation**

Blood Contaminants Act 1985

Children's Services Act 1985

Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017

Community Welfare Act 1972

Education Act 1972

Education and Children's Services Act 2019

Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011

Emergency Management Act 2004

Health Care Act 2008

## **My Time Our Place**

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

### **Infectious Disease Plan:**

In the event of an infectious disease occurring in the wider community of Walkerville Primary OSHC:

- the service will follow the guidance of Walkerville Primary School and SA Health updates.
- Our service will continue to follow a stringent cleaning routine. Reminding educators, students and families about personal hygiene practices and ensure any person that attends the site is in good health free from illness.
- Walkerville Primary OSHC instils the right to refuse service to those who present with symptoms of infectious disease until clearance from medical professionals is provided in writing to the service or alternative plans are put in place.
- Contingency plans will be created to be ready for any updates from SA Health or Walkerville Primary School.
- Regular communication between the service and families and educators through skool bag application, phone, email, SMS messaging and in person will keep all up to date with any changes or adaptations to routines.
- Any changes in routine of the service will be done with considerations of recommendations from governing bodies, SA Health and medical professionals.

In the event of an infectious disease occurring in the Walkerville Primary School community our service will:

- Follow the procedure outlined above.
- follow the guidance of Walkerville Primary School, SA Health updates or governing council.

In the event of a Pandemic announced by the Australian Government our service will intensify its cleaning regime. The following it will outline the increased cleaning processes.

Cleaning schedule:

- Door handles, light switches, piano, bin lids, taps, signing in devices, surfaces, walkie talkies, chairs, cupboard handles, kitchen appliances and mobile phones to be disinfected every morning and evening.
- Stationary, carpeted surfaces, window sills and toys to be sprayed with disinfected every day.

- Educator laptop and devices used for administration are wiped after use.
- Plastic toys to be disinfected every day.
- We remove items such as blankets, pillows, soft toys, OSHC provided children's iPad, PS4 controllers and books that cannot be thoroughly cleaned every day.

List of infectious diseases:

Condition	Exclusion of Case	Exclusion of Contacts
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Campylobacter	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Candidiasis See 'Thrush'		
Chickenpox (Varicella)	Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in unimmunised children and less in immunised children.	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded.
CMV (Cytomegalovirus infection)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until the discharge from the eyes has stopped unless doctor has diagnosed a non-infectious conjunctivitis.	Not excluded
Cryptosporidium infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded



Diarrhoea (No organism identified)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Diphtheria	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least 2 negative throat swabs, the first swab not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics followed by another swab 48 hours later.	Exclude contacts that live in the same house until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority.
German measles See 'Rubella'		
Giardiasis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Glandular fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried	Not excluded
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days.	Not excluded
Head lice (Pediculosis)	Exclusion is NOT necessary if effective treatment is commenced prior to the next day at child care (i.e. the child doesn't need to be	Not excluded

	sent home immediately if head lice are detected).	
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before seven days after the onset of jaundice.	Not excluded
Hepatitis B	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Hepatitis C	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)	Exclusion is not necessary if the person is developmentally capable of maintaining hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission. If the person is unable to comply with these practices they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered by a dressing where possible.	Not excluded
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)	Exclusion is NOT necessary. If the person is severely immunocompromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses.	Not excluded
Hydatid disease	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Impetigo (school sores)	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed skin	Not excluded

	should be covered with a watertight dressing.	
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until well	Not excluded
Legionnaires' disease	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority.	Not excluded
Measles	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded.	Non-immunised contacts of a case are to be excluded from child care until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case, unless immunised within 72 hours of first contact during the infectious period with the first case. All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until well and has received appropriate antibiotics	Not excluded
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until well	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded
Molluscum contagiosum	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded

Mumps	Exclude for nine days after onset of swelling.	Not excluded
Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded
Parvovirus infection (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Pertussis See 'Whooping Cough'		
Respiratory Syncytial virus	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Ringworm/tinea	Exclude until the day after appropriate antifungal treatment has commenced.	Not excluded
Roseola	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Ross River virus	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Rotavirus infection	Children are to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours.	Not excluded
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
Salmonella infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Scabies	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded

Scarlet fever See 'Streptococcal sore throat'		
School sores See 'Impetigo'		
Shigella infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well.	Not excluded
Thrush (candidiasis)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Toxoplasmosis	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from an appropriate health authority	Not excluded
Typhoid, Paratyphoid	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from appropriate health authority.	Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities.
Varicella See 'Chickenpox'		
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	Children are to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours.	Not excluded
Warts	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Exclude until five days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment or for	Contacts that live in the same house as the case and have received less than

	21 days from the onset of coughing.	three doses of pertussis vaccine are to be excluded from the centre until they have had 5 days of an appropriate course of antibiotics. If antibiotics have not been taken, these contacts must be excluded for 21 days after their last exposure to the case while the person was infectious.
Worms	Exclusion not necessary if treatment has occurred	Not excluded