**Temora Preschool and Out of School Hours Inc.**

# Sick children, Immunisation, Infectious/Notifiable Diseases Policy

**Aim**

**Temora Preschool and Out of School Hours Inc.**  will pursue the following aims in relation to immunisation, infectious and notifiable diseases and in doing so will pursue its philosophy of supporting the wellness of families and also of the rural community it serves. As such this centre will:

**1.** Encouraging children and adults involved with the centre to become immunized and also to maintain their immunisation schedule as per the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule (see Source 4 below)

**2.** Use health practices that minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases among children, centre staff plus any others present

**3.** Keep details of vaccinated children’s immunizations and make available any public health information about these processes to parents

**4.** Ensure at the initial enrolment that parents are informed of the necessity for the centre to exclude non vaccinated children if a vaccine preventable disease occurs among anyone connected to the center and also of the fact that the child presenting with symptoms will be excluded from the centre until such time as a doctor certifies that they are no longer infectious

**6.** Notify the necessary public health authorities (as per the procedures below) in the event of an outbreak of vaccine preventable sickness at the centre

**Procedures**

**1. Minimising & managing the spread of infectious diseases**

**2. Mandatory notification of infectious diseases**

**3. Immunisation procedures for children, contact staff and visitors to the centre**

1. **Minimising the spread of infectious disease.**

**Where a child is generally unwell and not themselves (laying around, not participating as usual, glassy eyed, complaints of feeling unwell or a temperature); the parent will be telephoned and the matter discussed. If staff feel it necessary, they will ask the parent to collect the child.**

**Please note: there is a 24 hour exclusion period when your child has been sick ie: if they vomited at 4 am, you must wait 24 hours before they can return to preschool.**

To minimise the spread of infectious disease among children, centre staff and visitors at **Temora Preschool and OOSH** will:

**1.**1.1 Exclude from care and notify the local Public Health Unit in relation to (1) any of the following vaccine preventable diseases and (2) any adult or child on the premises who is known to be unvaccinated.

Diphtheria

Poliomyelitis

German measles

Tetanus

Measles

Mumps

Whooping Cough

Chicken Pox

**1.1.2** A child or staff member will be excluded with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have an illness:

Vomiting or continual compliants of a sore tummy

Continual coughing

rash, especially if purplish or hemorrhaging spots (possibly meningococcal) or blistering (possibly staphylococcal)

headache

stiffness of the neck

aversion to light (photophobia)

drowsiness or any unusual state of consciousness or behaviour

convulsion or epileptic seizure

severe pain anywhere (including toothache)

swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue, throat, neck or airways

hives

asthma- wheezing, or any difficulty breathing

high temperature

**1.1.3** A child or staff member will be excluded with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have an infectious illness:

diarrhoea

generalised rash

enlarged or tender lymph glands

severe cough with fever

head lice, nits, scabies, ringworm, impetigo(school sores), or mouth ulcers not yet treated, hand foot and mouth

mouth ulcers due to herpes simplex virus or coxsackie virus

infection or yellow or green discharge of the eyes or ears

yellow or green discharge of the nose

if any other infectious disease is suspected

high temperature

**1.1.4** Exclude children, staff, volunteers or visitors who have infectious diseases other than listed above, in accordance with the NHMRC Recommended Minimum periods of exclusion (see table below).

**1.2 Management of infectious diseases**

**1.2.1** Isolate the child from other children. Make sure the child is comfortable, and is supervised by

a staff member

**1.2.2** Contact the child’s parents or if they are unavailable, the contact person for emergencies as listed on the enrolment form. Inform the parents or contact person of the child’s condition, or suspected condition, and ask that the child be picked up from the centre as soon as possible.

**1.2.3** Ensure all pillows, towels, clothing, etc. that has been used by the child are washed – these articles should be washed separately and, if possible, aired in the sun to dry

**1.2.4** Ensure all contact toys are separated and disinfected

**1.2.5** Ensure all eating utensils are separated and washed.

**1.2.6** Inform all families of the presence of an infectious disease in the centre

**1.2.7** The centre will ensure confidentially of any personal or health related information obtained by centre staff in relation to any children, children’s parents and families

**2. Mandatory notification of infectious diseases**

Under the Public Health Act (Amendment) 1992, all child care services must by law notify the Public Health authorities/Public Health Unit in the event of an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease in their service. To this end the centre will maintain records about the immunisation status of children, which will be updated and will also include details for children who are not immunised. Parents also have a responsibility to notify the centre if their child develops a vaccine preventable disease to assist in notifying the Public Health Unit. The procedure in this event would be as follows:

**2.1** Parent/Guardian notify the centre that their child has been diagnosed with a vaccine preventable illness.

**2.2** The Director would then call their Public Health Unit (Albury- 0260808900). In rural areas this can be one or more of the following:

Medical Centre 69771400 Victoria St 69780063

Local hospital: 69771066

Local ambulance station: 131 233

Early Childhood Health Centre: 69774951

Community Health Centre: 69774951

**2.3** The Director will provide the following information about the child:

Name of child and parent/s names

Date of birth

Address

Contact details

Names and ages of siblings

A list of any non vaccinated children at the centre and their details.

**3.** **Immunisation procedures for children, contact staff and visitors to the centre**

**3.1** From January 2014 parents will be required to provide early childhood education and care services with proof that their child is immunized, or that they hold a valid exemption for their child.

See the Department of Health website for details.

**3.2** The centre will compile a list of all NON IMMUNISED CHILDREN. This must be readily accessible to staff-upon enrolment staff will photocopy the child’s “blue book” with the child’s immunization status.

**3.3.** It is the parent/s/guardian/s responsibility to keep their child’s immunization up to date, and to report any ongoing vaccinations to the centre. Failure to do so may mean their child is regarded as not being immunised. This needs to be communicated to parents upon enrollment

**3.4** Temora Preschool and OOSH Inc. will provide information on vaccinations in the community and will encourage all children, parents and staff to keep their immunisations up to date.

**3.5** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have a different immunization schedule. The **Temora Preschool and OOSH Inc.** recognises this (see Sources 3 (b)) and will support Aboriginal families as per the other procedures noted above in relation to their particular immunisation schedule.

**Review**

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

**Reviewed: Feb 2017 Date for next review: Feb 2019**

**Who is affected by this policy?**

Children/parents/other family members

Staff

High school/TAFE/university students who may be undertaking practical visits

Management

Visitors

Volunteers

**Legislative Requirements**

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011

Occupational Health & Safety Act 2000

Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2001

Public Health Act and Regulations (NSW) 1991 plus amendments (1992)

**Relevant Early childhood professional standards**

Early Childhood Code of Ethics: 1-1, II-3, II-4, VI-3,

Early Years Learning Framework: Outcomes – 1.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 3. Principles – 1, 2, 4

Education & Care Services Australian National Regulations: 99

National Quality Framework: Quality areas - 2, 5.1, 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.3.1, 6.4.1, 7.3.4, 7.6

**Sources/references**

**1. National Health & Medical Research Council. (Dec 2010). *Staying healthy in childcare:* *Preventing infectious diseases* (4th Ed.),**

[**http://www.nhmrc.gov.au./\_files\_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch43.pdf**](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au./_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch43.pdf)

**2. NSW Government – Health. A-Z of infectious diseases.**

[**http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infections/a-z.asp#M**](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infections/a-z.asp#M)

**3 (a) NSW Government – Health. Immunisation schedule for all ages**

[**http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2007/pdf/progsschedule.pdf**](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2007/pdf/progsschedule.pdf)

and

**(b) for immunisation schedules for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders:**

[**http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au.MCC/Public/UserFiles/File/Residents:NSWHealthImmunisationSchedule.pdf**](http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au.MCC/Public/UserFiles/File/Residents:NSWHealthImmunisationSchedule.pdf)

**4. NSW Government – Health. Public Health Act 1991 (and Amendment of 1992): Notification of Infectious diseases.**

[**http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2006/pdf/PD2006\_014pdf**](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2006/pdf/PD2006_014pdf)

**5. NSW Multicultural Health Community Service. This site contains health/infectious diseases information in a number of languages**

[**http://www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au/publication\_pdfs/7980/DOH-7980-ENG-pdf**](http://www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au/publication_pdfs/7980/DOH-7980-ENG-pdf)

# l Health & Medical Research Council

Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

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Recommended minimum periods of exclusion from school, pre-school and child care centres for cases and contacts with cases with infectious diseases.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CONDITION | | EXCLUSION OF CASES | | **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 | |  |
| Chicken pox | | Exclude for at least 5 days AND until all blisters have dried. | | Any child with an immune deficiency (e.g. leukemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise not excluded. |
| Conjunctivitis | | Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased. | | Not excluded. |
| Cytomegalovirus Infection | | Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours | | Not excluded. |
| Diarrhoea | | 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 two negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and the other 48 hours later. | | Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority. |
| German Measles | | See “Rubella” | |  |
| Glardiasis | | Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours | |  |
| Glandular fever (mononucleosis) | | Exclusion is not necessary. | | Not excluded. |
| Hand, Foot and Mouth disease | | Until blisters have dried. | | Not excluded. |
| Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) | Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received. | | | Not excluded. |
| Head Lice | Exculusion is not necessary if effective treatment is commenced prior to the next day at child care. | | | Not excluded |
| Hepatitis A | Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness. | | | Not excluded. |
| Hepatitis B | Exclusion is not necessary. | | | Not excluded. |
| Hepatitis C | Exclusion is not necessary. | | | Not excluded. |
| Herpes (cold sores) | Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible. | | | Not excluded. |
| Hookworm | Exclusion is not necessary. | | | Not excluded. |
| Human immune-deficiency virus infection  (HIV/AIDS virus) | Exclusion is not necessary unless the child has a secondary infection. | | | Not excluded. |
| Hydatid Disease | Exclusion is not necessary | | | Not excluded |
| Impetigo | Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing. | | | Not excluded. |
| Influenza and influenza like illnesses | Exclusion is not necessary. | | | 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 at least 4 days after onset of rash. | | | Immunised contacts not excluded. Unimmunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If unimmunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hrs of their first contact with the first case they may return to school. |
| Meningitis (bacterial) | Exclude until well and received appropriate antibiotics | | | Not excluded. |
| Meningitis (viral) | Exclude until well | | | Not excluded |
| Meningococcal infection | Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed. | | | Not excluded if receiving rifampicin. |
| Molluscum contagiosum | Exclusion is not necessary. | | | Not excluded. |
| Mumps | Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner). | | | Not excluded. |
| Norovirus | Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours | | | Not excluded |
| Parvovirus (erythema infectiousum fifth disease, Slapped cheek) | Exclusion is not necessary. | | | Not excluded. |
| Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (lice), trachoma | Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced. | | | Not excluded. |
| Rubella (german measles) | Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of rash. | | | Not excluded. |
| Roseola | Exclusion not necessary | | | Not excluded |
| Ross River virus | Exclusion not necessary | | | Not excluded |
| Rotavirus infection | Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours | | | Not excluded |
| Salmonella, Shigella | Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours | | | Not excluded. |
| Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever) | Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hrs and the person feels well. | | | Not excluded. |
| Shigella infection | Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours | | | Not excluded |
| Toxoplasmosis | Exclusion not necessary | | | Not excluded |
| Tuberculosis | Exclude until a medical certificate from an appropriate health authority is received. | | | Not excluded. |
| Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever) | Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority. | | | Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities. |
| Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhea) | Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours | | | Not excluded |
| Whooping cough | Exclude the child for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment. | | | Exclude unimmunised household contacts aged less than 7 years for 14 days after the last exposure to infection or until they have taken 5 days of a 14-day course of antibiotics. (Exclude close child care contacts until they have commenced antibiotics). |
| Worms (intestinal) | Exclude if diarrhoea present. | | | Not excluded. |
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## Note: The NHMRC recommends that children who are physically unwell should be excluded from attending school, pre-school and child care centres. This list should be read in conjunction with the National Health and Medical Research Council’s publication:

National Health and Medical Research Council. June, 2001. *Staying Healthy in*

*Child Care*. 4th edition, Canberra, AGPS.