

Our Lady of Hope Greenwith Campus Outside School Hours Care



POLICY DOCUMENT

<h3>SICK CHILD</h3>

BACKGROUND

Children come into contact with many other children and adults in the school aged childhood environment causing them to sometimes contract infectious illnesses. National Quality Standards require school aged childhood services to implement specific strategies to minimise the spread of infectious illnesses.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Our Lady of Hope Greenwith Campus OSHC Service stakeholders aims to maintain the health of all children, staff and all their families, ensuring a healthy environment and minimising cross contamination and the spread of infectious disease.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.1	Health	Each child's health is supported.
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.
2.1.3	Healthy Lifestyle	Healthy eating is promoted, and food and drinks provided by the service are nutritious and appropriate for each child.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	Children are always adequately supervised.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury. Plans to effectively manage incident and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical Conditions Policy
92	Medication Record
93	Administration of Medication
96	Self-administration of medication

RELATED POLICIES

First Aid
Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
Infectious Diseases and Infestations
Medical Conditions

HOW THE POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

Our Service has adopted the Staying Healthy in Child Care (Preventing Infectious disease in childcare Fifth Edition) publication, developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the S.A. public health unit. We aim to provide families with up to date information regarding specific illnesses and ways to minimise the spread of infection within the Service.

We understand that it can be difficult for families to know when their child is sick. Families may experience problems taking time off work or study to care for their child at home. Obtaining leave from work or study can enhance negative attitudes in the workplace which can cause stress on families. Families may also experience guilt when they send their child to care who is not well. However, it is imperative that families preserve a focus not only on the well-being of their own child but also upon the well-being of other children and the childcare professionals at the Service.

The need for exclusion and the length of time a person is excluded depend on how easily the infection can spread, how long the person is likely to be infectious and how severe the disease can be. To protect the health of children and staff within the Service, it is important that children and staff who are ill are kept away from the Service for the recommended period.

Our Educators and Staff are not medical practitioners and are not able to diagnose whether a child has an infectious illness. However, if an infectious illness is suspected, OSHC may ask the family to collect their child from care as soon as possible or not bring the child to care.

The Director and Educators may request families seek medical advice and provide a medical certificate stating that the child is no longer infectious prior to returning to care.

Children arriving at the Service who are unwell

Management will not accept a child into care if they:

- Are unwell and unable to participate in normal activities or require additional attention.
- Have had a temperature, vomiting and/or diarrhoea in the last 24 hours.
- Have started antibiotics in the last 24 hours.
- Have a contagious illness or disease.
- Have been given medication for a temperature (Panadol etc.).

Children who become ill at the Service

Children may become unwell throughout the day, in which the Director and Educators will respond to children's individual symptoms of illness.

- A child who has diarrhoea/vomited whilst at the Service will be sent home and may require a Doctor's Certificate to return to the Service.
- Educators will take the child's temperature. If the child's temperature is 38°C or higher, management will contact the child's parents/guardian/emergency contacts as soon as possible to have the child picked up.
- Educators will attempt to lower the child's temperature by - Taking off their shoes and socks – Applying a cool washer behind their neck and on their forehead - Removing extra clothing layers (jumpers etc.).
- Place the child in a quiet area where they can rest, whilst being supervised.
- Educators will monitor and document the child's symptoms on the Illness Register
- Continue to document any progressing symptoms.

- Complete Illness Record, ensuring the form has been completed correctly and signed by the parent/guardian/emergency contact.

Reporting Outbreaks to the Public Health Unit

Outbreaks of communicable diseases represent a threat to public health. To prevent outbreaks, it is important to monitor the number of people who contract certain infectious diseases and their characteristics, and to work with patients and their doctors to help prevent spread to other people.

The S.A. Public Health Act 2011 lawfully requires and authorises doctors, hospitals, laboratories, school principals and childcare centre directors to confidentially notify S.A. Department of Health of Children with certain conditions, and to provide the information outlined on the notification forms. Specialist trained public health staff review this information and if necessary, contact the children's doctor, and sometimes the children's families, to provide advice about disease control and to complete the collection of information.

All information is held confidentially in order to protect the patient's privacy. Both the S.A. and Commonwealth Privacy Acts contemplate the release/disclosure of patient information where it is lawfully required or authorised.

Management is required to notify the communicable disease and control branch (CDBC) by phone (call 1300 232 272) as soon as possible after they are made aware that a child enrolled at the Service is suffering from one of the following vaccine preventable diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Mumps
- Poliomyelitis
- Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib)
- Meningococcal disease
- Rubella ("German measles")
- Measles
- Pertussis ("whooping cough")
- Tetanus
- An outbreak of gastrointestinal or respiratory illness

Common Colds and Flu

The common cold (Viral upper respiratory tract infections) are very common in children occurring 6-10 times a year on average with the highest number usually being during the first 2 years in OSHC, kindergarten or school. Symptoms may include coughing, runny nose and a slight temperature

In circumstances where a child appears to have a cold or flu symptoms, management will determine if the child is well enough to continue at the Service or if the child requires parental care.

Our Service aims to support the family's need for childcare, however families should understand that a child who is unwell will need one-on-one attention which places additional pressure on staff ratios and the needs of other children.

Excluding children from the Service

- When a child has been diagnosed with an illness or infectious disease, the Service will refer to Staying Healthy in Childcare (5th Edition) to find the recommended exclusion period and also request a medical clearance from the GP stating that the child is cleared to return to the childcare setting.
- When an infectious disease has been diagnosed, the Service will display appropriate documentation and alerts for families including information on the illness/disease, symptoms, infectious period and the exclusion period. (This information can be obtained from Staying Healthy In Child Care 5th Edition).
- Children that have had diarrhoea and vomiting will be asked to stay away from the Service for 48 hours after symptoms have ceased to reduce infection transmission as symptoms can develop again after 24 hours in many instances.

Notifying families and Emergency Contact

- It is a requirement of the Service that all emergency contacts are able to pick up an ill child within a 30-minute timeframe.
- In the incident that the ill child is not collected in a timely manner or should parents refuse to collect the child a warning letter will be sent to the families outlining Service policies and requirements. The letter of warning will specify that if there is a future breach of this nature, the child's position may be terminated.

Management and Educators Responsibility

- Effective hygiene policies and procedures are always adhered to.
- Effective environmental cleaning policies and procedures are adhered to all times.
- All families are directed to our website to view or our policies upon enrolment which include Infectious Diseases and Infestations Policy, Sick Children policy, Medical Conditions Policy and Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy.
- Any child who registers a temperature of 38°C or above will need to be collected from the Service and will be excluded for 24 hours since the last elevated temperature or until the Service receives a doctor's clearance letter stating that the child is cleared of any infection and able to return to child care.
- That if the situation or event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours of the incident.
- That parents are notified as soon as practicable but within 24 hours. Also, details of the condition/situation will be recorded on the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record.

Families Responsibility

In order to prevent the spread of disease, families are required to monitor their child's health, in particular:

- Runny nose – green discharge
- High temperature
- Diarrhoea
- Red, swollen or discharging eyes
- Vomiting
- Rashes
- Irritability, unusually tired or lethargic

Returning to care after surgery

- Children who have undergone any type of surgery will need to take advice from their doctor/surgeon as to when it is appropriate to return to care.
- Children will require a medical clearance stating the child is fit and able to return to the Service and participate in daily activities.

SOURCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
- National Quality Standards (2018)
- Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition (Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services)
- National Health and Medical Research Council nhmrc.gov.au
- S.A. Health

(Chairperson)

(Date Reviewed)

(Principal)

(Date Reviewed)