

# Sickness and Infectious Diseases Policy

## **RATIONALE:**

Fingerprints Christian Preschool believes that all children and adults should experience an environment where their health is promoted.

All practicable steps are taken to ensure that children do not come into contact with any person (adult or child) on the premises who is suffering from a disease or condition likely to be passed onto children and likely to have a detrimental effect on them.

## **PRACTICES:**

Owing to risk of infection we are unable to take care of sick children. Your child should be kept at home if he/she shows any of the following symptoms:

- High temperature
- Inflamed throat or eyes
- Unidentified rash
- Upset stomach or diarrhoea
- Communicable short term disease
- Heavy cold with deep cough and coloured discharge from nose
- Conjunctivitis

In the event of a child becoming ill during Centre hours and/or is unable to participate fully in the centre programme, due to illness or ailment, the child will be cared for in isolation, under supervision, until the parent/caregiver or emergency contact can be contacted and arrives to collect the child. In cases of emergency, medical advice will be sought immediately. The enrolment form gives permission for medical aid to be sought in the case of serious illness or accident.

Page 15, 16 and 17 of the following MOH document have been reproduced and attached to this policy to give guidance to staff as to when it is appropriate to exclude a child or staff as a result of illness. <http://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/ngakupuorangahealthymessages.pdf>  
The whole of this document is very useful and should be consulted in the event of uncertainty about health and hygiene.

Any staff member who can not fully carry out their duties, due to an illness or health ailment, will be asked to leave. Staff/child ratios will be maintained at all times.

If a child or staff member has vomiting and/or diarrhoea we ask that they are excluded from the centre for at least 48 hours from the last incident.

The parents of children who arrive with, or develop, spots and rashes will be required to collect them and have the spot or rash diagnosed by a doctor. If the spots or rash are not contagious, and the child is otherwise happy and in good health, then that child may return to the Centre the same day accompanied by a medical certificate stating the above information.

Children who arrive with or develop a fever must be collected by their parents. Pamol will not be administered for fever.

Antibiotics - where antibiotics have been prescribed for an infection we expect the staff member or child to be kept away from the Centre for at least 24 hours from the first dose - longer if necessary.

Parents will be notified of the presence of a short-term communicable disease at the Centre verbally, by facebook and on the kitchen whiteboard or front door.

Infectious diseases - include ringworm, scabies, school sores, impetigo, chickenpox, measles, whooping cough, mumps, conjunctivitis, etc and are outlined on

<http://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/running-an-ece-service/the-regulatory-framework-for-ece/licensing-criteria/centre-based-ece-services/appendix-2-infectious-diseases-for-criterion-hs26/>. The action specified in the Appendix 2 chart must be taken for any person (adult or child) suffering from a particular infectious disease; and children who become unwell while attending the service must be kept at a safe distance from other children (to minimise the spread of infection) and without delay be returned to the care of a parent or emergency contact. The Centre Director is to be consulted as to when it is appropriate for the child or staff member to return to the Centre and will give a determination based on the Infectious Disease chart on the staffroom wall or in accordance with medical advice. A notice will be displayed in the Centre when outbreaks occur.

Where a child has a serious illness (including for example a seizure, anaphylactic reaction or an illness identified in Appendix 2) while at the centre the Centre Director must notify the Service provider who will notify the specified agency and the MOE.

Coughs, colds, flu etc - children with bad coughs, runny thick nasal discharge, sneezing, temperatures etc should be kept at home until chronic symptoms disappear and the parent is sure the child is well and can fully participate in the centre program for the entire day. A survey will be conducted with parents via facebook to decide what constitutes a cold that requires a child to stay home. Teachers will then implement the consensus decision.

In case of long-term communicable diseases - e.g. HIV+, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, other staff may be notified in consultation with and approval from the child's parents.

Headlice - a notice will be put on the kitchen notice board if a child/children have had these at the centre - treatment advice will be given to infected children and support offered to all families. If a child is suspected of having head lice then a staff member will check their hair discreetly. If the child does have head lice then their parents / caregivers will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up their child and treat their hair. The child will be isolated (with a staff member) until collected. The child may return after treatment, and hair is clear of eggs and live lice. Staff members who discover head lice in their own hair will also treat their hair before returning to work.

The Centre Director or 'Person Responsible' may request to see a doctor's certificate before an excluded person is allowed to return. The opinion of the Centre Director may override the recommendations of a doctor's certificate if they believe that the presence of a person may not be in the best interests of the person, other persons, or the smooth operation of the centre.

While it is the responsibility of the Centre staff to make decisions on exclusion it is not appropriate for Centre staff to diagnose an illness.

**GUIDING DOCUMENTS:**

**Education (Early Childhood Centres) Regulations 2008, reg 46 HS26, HS27, PF27**  
**Health (Infectious & Notifiable Regulations 1966: Schedule 2**

Approved by:

Centre Director: *Hilary Henderson*

Service Provider

Contact Person: *Aaron Donaldson*

Date: Sept 2023

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Reviewed: September 2023

To be reviewed: Sept 2025

## When reviewing next consider the following from ECC

### Sick Children

In general children should stay away from an early childhood service when:

- They have no interest in activities or play
- have little energy, want or need to sleep or rest for long periods
- cry easily, are irritable or in pain
- constantly want to be held and comforted
- have a fever
- any child with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away until symptoms cease and they are well.

At our centre, we protect all children and staff from cross infection. This is particularly important for the child with HIV as they may have less resistance to infection.

- We do not allow children with contagious diseases to be in contact with other children. When a child or adult becomes ill at the centre, keep the child at a safe distance from other children and ask the parent or caregiver to collect the child as soon as possible.
- We ensure all parents understand this policy on enrolment.
- We have medicine policies and procedures and ensure staff understand them and follow them.
- Medicines may only be given with the written authority of a parent or caregiver or, in an emergency, by a qualified doctor or ambulance staff.
- HIV in children is only known to be transmitted through blood. Children do not get infected through every day contact such as sneezing, coughing, hugging, kissing or even biting. Infection is only a risk where blood is present.
- Staff will use gloves and disinfectant when there is any concern about stopping the transmission of infectious diseases.
- The Infectious disease exclusion policy has guidelines for when sick children should not attend the centre.
- Any notifiable diseases are notified to the Ministry of Health.
- Staff and parents are informed of health warnings and how to recognise signs of any illnesses for which we receive Ministry notifications.
- We will work with parents to identify needs for staff training and to develop plans for providing the best care at all times such as any activities a child should avoid.

### Staff illness and accidents:

- Staff with communicable illnesses must take sick leave.
- Staff accidents and injuries are also recorded and procedures followed as for child procedures with next of kin and WorkplaceNZ are notified where the incident is serious.