



Marton Activity Centre

MAC Policy

DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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The spread of infections in the early childhood environment is facilitated by microbial contamination of the environment, as well as the greater exposure to young children who are still developing hygienic behaviours and habits.

Marton Activity Centre will minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases by adhering to all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases, promoting practices that reduce the transmission of infection, ensuring the exclusion of sick children and educators, supporting child immunisation, and implementing effective hygiene practices.

POLICY STATEMENT

Children encounter many other children and adults within the OSHC Service environment which can result in the contraction of infectious illnesses. Our Service has a duty of care to ensure that children, families, educators, and visitors of the Service are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the Service's operation. We aim to manage illnesses and prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout the Service. Immunisation is a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others within the community, by reducing the spread of disease and illnesses.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the children, families, staff, management and visitors of Marton Activity Centre.

PROCEDURES

IMMUNISATION REQUIREMENTS FROM JANUARY 2016

- Only parents of children (less than 20 years of age) who are fully immunised or are on a recognised catch-up schedule can receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement.
- The relevant vaccinations are those under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), which covers the vaccines usually administered before age five. These vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).
- Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases will continue to be exempt from the requirements.
- Conscientious objection and vaccination objection on non-medical grounds is no longer a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.
- From 1 January 2018 [NSW] children who are unvaccinated due to their parent's conscientious objection will no longer be able to be enrolled in childcare in NSW, including Out of School Hours Care Services. Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule will still be able to be enrolled upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.

Families eligible to receive family assistance payments and have children less than 20 years of age, who may not meet the new immunisation requirements, will be notified by Centrelink. (The details of vaccinations given to persons less than 20 years of age can be submitted for inclusion on the AIR by your local GP.)

MANAGEMENT WILL ENSURE:

- That all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority.
- The implementation of recommendations from Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.
- Children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the OSHC Service.
- They collect, maintain, and appropriately store the required enrolment documents and enrolment information, including health and immunisation records of children in the OSHC Service.

A NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL ENSURE:

- A hygienic environment is maintained.
- Cleaning charts are completed each day and signed by the Educator.
- Children are supported in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine.

- Educators and Staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves.
- Information is collected on enrolment and maintained regarding each child's immunisation status, and any medical conditions.
- Families are provided with relevant sourced materials and information on infectious diseases, health, and hygiene including:
 - The current NSW Immunisation Schedule.
 - Exclusion guidelines in the event of an infectious illness at the OSHC Service for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all their immunisations.
 - Advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any specific infectious illnesses that are suspected/present in the OSHC Service or greater school community.
- Families are provided with information about an infectious disease by displaying and emailing the Infectious Diseases Notification Form and details.
- That an illness record form is completed no later than 24 hours of an illness occurring.
- All educators are mindful and maintain confidentiality of individual children's medical circumstances.
- Children's enrolment records are updated with regards to immunisation as required, (i.e. as children reach age milestones for immunisation), or at least twice a year.
- Staff are advised of the recommended immunisations for people working with children
- Current records of staff immunisation status are retained, and educators are familiar with procedures for exclusion of educators as well as children in the event of an infectious illness occurring at the OSHC Service.
- That opportunities for educators to source pertinent up to date information from trusted sources on the prevention of infectious diseases and maintaining health and hygiene are provided.
- To notify and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required.
- That opportunities for staff, children, and families to have access to health professionals by organising visits/guest speakers to attend the OSHC service to confirm best practice are provided.
- Children do not attend the OSHC Service if they are unwell. If a child has been sick, they must be well for 24hrs before returning to the Service. For example, if a child is absent due to illness or is sent home due to illness, they will be unable to attend the next day as a minimum. The Nominated Supervisor may approve the child's return to the OSHC Service if families provide a doctor's certificate/clearance certifying that the child is no longer contagious and is in good health.

- To complete the register of illness and/or document incidents of infectious diseases. Some diseases require the state authority to be notified.
- Cloths are colour coded so that a separate cloth is used for floors, bathroom, art and craft, and meal surfaces.
- Toys and equipment that are hard to clean will be washed with detergent and air-dried in sunlight.
- Washable toys and equipment will be washed in detergent and hot water or the dishwasher and aired to dry (toys will not be washed in the dishwasher at the same time as dishes). All toys and equipment that have been cleaned will be recorded on the toy cleaning register.
- All cleaning procedures will be recorded on the Service's Cleaning Checklist.
- Furnishings, fabric tablecloths and other fabric items will be laundered at the end of each week and hung out to dry. This will be increased to every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during winter months or during an outbreak of illness in the OSHC Service.
- Floor surfaces will be cleaned on a daily basis after each meal and at the end of each day.
- Toilets/bathrooms will be cleaned in the middle of the day, the end of the day and whenever needed throughout the day using disinfectant and paper towel.
- Disposable paper towels and disinfectants are used to clean bodily fluids off beds, floors, bathrooms, etc.
- Pregnant staff do not change nappies or assist in toileting or cleaning up toileting accidents to prevent unexpected cross contamination and risk to pregnancy.

EDUCATORS WILL ENSURE:

- That any child suspected of having an infectious illness is responded to and their health and emotional needs supported at all times.
- Appropriate health and safety procedures are implemented when treating ill children.
- Families are aware of the need to collect their unwell child/ children as soon as practicable.
- Families are advised that they must need to alert the OSHC service if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness.
- Their own immunisation status is maintained, and the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor is advised of any updates to their immunisation status.
- Opportunities are provided for children to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice.

- Consideration is made regarding the combination of children to decrease the risk of attaining an infectious illness when planning the routines/program of the day.
- The Service adheres to the Health and Hygiene policy including:
 - hand washing
 - daily cleaning of the service
 - wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids)
 - Appropriate and hygienic handling and preparation of food.
- They maintain up to date knowledge with respect to Health and Safety through on-going professional development opportunities.
- All washable toys out on display are washed on a weekly basis in order to decrease the risk of cross contamination.
- Play dough is made fresh every week. If there is an outbreak of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, or any other contagious communicable disease, play dough is to be discarded at the end of each day and a new batch made each day for the duration of the outbreak. Children are to wash their hands before and after using the play dough.
- The mops used for toilet accidents (should they occur) are soaked in disinfectant in a bucket in the laundry sink and then air-dried.
- That a weekly clean is carried out on other surfaces that may transmit germs such as doorknobs, low shelving, etc. This will be increased if an outbreak has been recorded in the Service.
- That if a child has a toileting accident, the items are placed in a plastic bag with the child's name on it. The plastic bag will be stored in a sealed container labelled 'soiled/wet clothing' for parents to take home.

FAMILIES WILL:

- Advise the OSHC Service of their child's immunisation status, by providing approved written documentation for the Service to copy and place in the child's file.
- Advise the OSHC Service when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated to ensure that immunisation and medical records are up to date.

CONSIDERATIONS

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health & Safety		
2.1. 1	Well-being and comfort	Each child's well-being 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.	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS AND NATIONAL LAW

Education and Care Services National Regulations and National law NSW		
Reg	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
Reg	85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
Reg	86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness.
Reg	87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record.
Reg	88	Infectious Diseases
Reg	90	Medical Conditions Policy
Reg	162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (2014)
Department of Human Resources: National Immunisation Program Schedule: https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program
Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).
Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2017).
Medicare Australia (Department of Human Services): https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/medicare
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/
National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012). Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.
No Jab No Play: https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/no-jab-no-pay-new-requirements-fact-sheet
NSW Government Department of Health. Vaccination requirements for child care: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_ga.aspx
Public Health Act 2010
Public Health Amendment Act 2017
Public Health Regulation 2012
Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

SERVICE POLICIES/ DOCUMENTATION

Policies	
Administration of Medication	Sick Children
Dental Health	Work, Health and Safety
Family Communication	Medical Conditions
Hand washing	Physical Environment
Health and Safety	
Immunisation	
Incident, Illness, Accident & Trauma	