



DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES & ILLNESS POLICY (M)

Mandatory – Quality Area 2

CSReg Part4 –Div3

POLICY

Outlets Co-operative Neighbourhood House LTD will respond to an ill child immediately responding to the child's health, safety and well-being. First aid will be applied as appropriate to each situation. In the case of infectious diseases, the period of exclusion will be in accordance with the "Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion from School, Pre-school and Child Care Centres for Cases of and Contact with Infectious Diseases" (Staying Healthy in Child Care - 4th Edition, National Health and Medical Research Council)

Relevant Legislation

- Children's Services Regulations (Vic) 32/2020 Reg 57
- Children's Services (Vic) 1996
- Education and Care Services National Regulations regulation 85
- Education and Care Services National Regulations regulation 86
- Education and Care Services National Regulations regulation 87
- Education and Care Services National Regulations regulation 88
- Education and Care Services National Regulations regulation 168
- National Quality Standard 2
- Staying Healthy - National Health and Medical Research Council Sources
- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- National Quality Standard
- Parent Information Handbook - Centre's
- Staying Healthy - National Health and Medical Research Council

PROCEDURE - Implementation

We ask you to play an active role in minimising the spread of illnesses in the Centre by ensuring that you notify us when your child is ill, or diagnosed as having an infectious disease, and by keeping your child at home until they are well, and all periods of exclusion are adhered to. Your consideration regarding all such health matters will contribute immensely to the maintenance of a healthy environment for all of the children and adults within the Centre.

Of-course in addition to the health concern, if your child has an illness that makes, he or she so uncomfortable that they are unable to participate in the day's program, both indoors and outdoors, they need more individualised and personal care than we are able to provide, and alternative child care arrangements should be made. In the case of infectious diseases, the period of exclusion will be in accordance with the "**Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion from School, Pre-school and Child Care Centres for Cases of and Contact with Infectious Diseases**" (Staying Healthy in Child Care - 4th Edition, National Health and Medical Research Council)

If your child becomes ill while at the Centre, you will be contacted to make arrangements for you or an emergency contact to collect your child from the centre.

Illness Procedure In the case of an ill child we will:

- attend to the immediate needs of the child keeping them comforted and informed throughout
- consult the Qualified educator (if not available Management) at all times before making any decision regarding the ill child (unless emergency first aid is required)
- record the child's temperature and or other signs and symptoms of illness in the illness record
- comply to recommended periods of exclusion for cases and contact with infectious diseases in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council



- contact the parent/emergency contact if exclusion period is necessary (should exclusion not be necessary the parent/emergency contact must be contacted and informed about the child's illness in order for the parent to make a decision regarding a doctor, treatment etc)
- clean and disinfect the relevant equipment and area
- display the infectious disease poster in the foyer to inform staff and parents of current infection/s and complete the illness record.
- The illness record will be completed as soon as practicably possible and no later than 24 hours after the onset of the illness Infection Control Although our environment cannot be made germ free, we can lessen the harmful effects of germs by keeping their numbers at a low.

Germs can be most effectively controlled by frequent:

1. cleaning and disinfecting objects which come in contact with children, and;
2. handwashing

In addition, proper handling and disposal of contaminated items is necessary to prevent the spread of infections. (refer to Hand Sanitising procedures)

Hand washing is the most important procedure you and the children can follow to prevent the spread of infection.

How to wash your hands:

1. rub your hands together vigorously for at least 20 seconds using warm running water and soap
 2. wash your fingernails, between fingers, backs of hands and wrists
 3. rinse your hands well under running water
 4. dry your hands with a single cloth or hot blow dryer
- When should you wash your hands?
- when you arrive at the centre and after you use the bathroom, or help a child in the bathroom
 - after you change a nappy and after you handle items with bodily fluids or wastes such as blood, urine, runny nose etc and after outside play and before you prepare food
 - before you eat or drink and after you handle an ill child
- When should the children wash their hands?
- when they arrive at the centre and after outside play and before they eat and drink and after they have touched an ill child and after they blow, wipe their nose and after they use the bathroom

RESOURCES

Posters - the role of hands in the spread of infection
How to use alcohol-based Hand rub
NHMRC – Staying Healthy and Infection Control in Children Services
NHMRC – Exclusion list of Infectious Diseases

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Outlets Co-operative Neighbourhood House LTD on July 2020

REVIEW DATE: 23/05/2024