

## **Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy**

### **Implementation**

At MSK steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.

The kindergarten will minimise the spread of potential infectious diseases between children, other children and educators by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend the kindergarten. This will facilitate the prevention and effective management of acute illness in children.

The kindergarten will use the National Health Councils Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion to exclude children and educators and inform parents of exclusion and non-exclusion periods for infectious diseases.

If a child becomes ill at kindergarten, the kindergarten will respond to any symptoms as follows:

- Isolate the child from other children.
- Ensure the child is comfortable and supervised at all times by educators.
- notify the child's parent/legal guardian or nominated contacts immediately.
- Provide information of the child's condition and ask for a parent or other authorised person to collect the child as quickly as possible.
- Ensure all towels and clothing etc which have been used by the child are disinfected. These items will be washed separately and if possible air dried in the sun.
- Inform all kindergarten families and educators of the presence of an infectious disease.
- Display a notice of 'an occurrence of an infectious disease' as prescribed information in accordance with Regulation [173 (2) (g)].
- Ensure confidentiality of any personal health related information obtained by the kindergarten and educators in relation to any child or their family.

Where a child or educator has been unable to attend the kindergarten because of an infectious illness the person must provide a doctors certificate which specifically states the child/staff member is well enough to return to the kindergarten.

Infectious Diseases Requiring Notification to the Local Public Health Unit Infectious diseases require notification to the Local Public Health Unit by doctors and/or laboratories. A list of infectious diseases that require notification can be found on following form:

<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/PDF-files/0811-notifiable-disease-list.pdf> (see attached document to this policy)

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend that Educators should be Immunised against the following:

- Hepatitis A.
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR). Educators born during or since 1966 and do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have the antibodies for rubella, require vaccination.
- Varicella, if they have not previously been infected with chickenpox.
- Pertussis: An adult booster dose is especially important for those educators caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated. Note: The age of the youngest children entering the kindergarten is three and half years old, by this time children should have obtained their complete vaccination doses for whooping cough.

Although the risk is low, educators who care for children with intellectual disabilities should seek advice about Hepatitis B immunisation if the children are unimmunised.

Note: All staff will be informed as part of their induction process about the kindergarten's "Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy".

**Reference/ Sources** . Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

National Quality Standard Department of Health and Ageing, National Immunisation Program Schedule NHMRC.

Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care, 4th edition, Public and Environmental Health Act 1987.

NQS QA2

- 2.1.1 Each child's health needs are supported.
- 2.1.4 Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.

National Regulations

Aim Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them within the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

- 77 Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Practices.
- 85 Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policies and Procedures.
- 86 Notification to Parents of Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness.
- 87 Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record.
- 88 Infectious Diseases.
- 90 Medical Conditions Policy
- 162 Health Information to be kept in Enrolment Record.

**WEBSITE: SA HEALTH: 'Exclusion from Preschool'** for recommended minimum periods of exclusion.

**'You've Got What'** for information on individual infection control and management.

Last Reviewed: 2021