

## Procedure related to dealing with infectious diseases, including immunisation

Associated National Quality Standard	Education and Care Services National Law or Regulation	Associated Department policy, procedure or guideline
2.1	88	Student health in NSW schools: A summary and consolidation of policy

#### Rationale

Educators work to ensure the safety and good health of every child. This procedure refers to the responsibilities of staff and families in the prevention and control of infection and the process of dealing with the contraction of infectious disease.

#### Hand washing

Children are required to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the preschool day such as:

- after packing away toys/activities
- before eating food
- after going to the bathroom
- touching animals
- after coughing, sneezing or wiping their nose
- coming in from outdoor play

Adults are also required to wash their hands at the same regular intervals throughout the day and more, including:

- · after assisting children with toileting
- before and after administering first aid or medication
- before and after preparing or handling food
- after wiping a child's nose
- after cleaning up bodily fluids
- before and after applying sunscreen

Children are taught hand washing procedures at the start of the year and reminded throughout the day of the importance of hand hygiene.

Posters are displayed in the bathroom and kitchen areas as a visual prompt to remind children and educators of the correct hand washing procedures.

Staff model correct hand washing practices at the appropriate times and monitor children throughout the day.

Single use paper towel is used to ensure an avoidance of cross contamination.

Procedure due for revision April 2021

#### **Toileting**

Parents have the responsibility of toilet training, however as preschool age children are still developing toileting habits, it is appropriate for staff to support parents during this process. Parents are encouraged to inform staff of any toileting difficulties at the orientation interview and update educators when the children start at the beginning of the year.

If a child has a soiling or wetting accident, educators are to wash hands, wear gloves and assist the child to change their clothes. This will be done in the preschool bathroom to ensure privacy for the child.

Soiled or wet clothing should be placed in a bag and stored in a bucket in the staff toilet on a shelf inaccessible to children.

Parents are to be notified upon collection and are able to retrieve the bag of soiled clothing to take home.

Parents are asked at the beginning of the year, to ensure spare clothes are available in the child's bag. If there are no spare clothes, the parents will be contacted to give them the opportunity to provide the child's own clothes. The preschool has a set of clothes available for emergency use.

After changing the child, gloves should be placed in a bag, sealed and placed in a bin with a removable liner.

Posters are displayed in the bathroom areas as a visual prompt to remind children and staff of the correct toileting procedures. Encouraging children to be independent in these areas is essential and staff should model and teach appropriate hygiene practices.

We have shower facilities in the preschool and Early Intervention bathrooms in case the need arises for showering a child due to soiling. If a child enrols in the preschool who has a medical condition or disability and wears nappies, the nappy changing area in Early Intervention may be utilised. Nappy bins are available in the all preschool toilets and these will be emptied according to health guidelines.

#### Dealing with Bodily Fluids

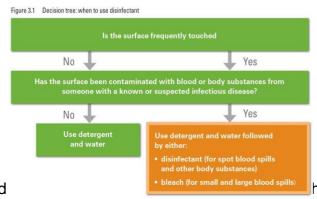
When dealing with faeces, vomit and urine staff are required to:

- Wear gloves
- Place a paper towel over the spill and allow spill to soak in. Carefully remove the paper towel and any solid matter and place in a plastic bag, seal and put in the bin.
- Clean the surface with warm water and detergent and allow to dry.
- Use disinfectant on the surface
- Wash hands thoroughly upon completion

#### Cleaning

Cleaning in the bathroom of sinks and taps can be done with detergent and water in a spray bottle and a single use paper towel. When cleaning the toilets this procedure is to be followed including the use of disinfectant and a single use paper towel after.

Tables are cleaned before and after each session and Procedure due for revision April 2021



microfiber cloth. If needed disinfectant will be used according to the decision tree from Staying Healthy in Childcare 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.

A mop and bucket are available for spot cleaning of spills. There is also commercial spill absorber available from the office when required.

Educators clean the toilet area, including the bathroom floor as needed throughout the day. All tables are cleaned after craft activities.

DoE preschools have contracted cleaners who clean the floors and bathrooms daily. More extensive cleaning is conducted during school holidays, such as cleaning the rafters and windows of our preschool.

Soft toys, dress up clothing, puzzles, books, sand equipment, tables and chairs and indoor equipment are cleaned regularly to reduce the spread of infection.

A toy cleaning checklist (attached) is completed over the year to indicate when preschool toys are cleaned and maintained.

#### Cleaning products

Educators consider the type of products used for cleaning desks, toys and equipment in the preschool. Many chemical cleaning products (including disinfectants) may be a potential risk to health, possibly triggering conditions such as asthma, allergies and poisoning.

All cleaning products are safely stored away in locked cupboards or storerooms and the cupboard/storeroom is clearly labelled with a poisons sign with the Poisons information phone number on it.

Detergent and water are suitable for all general environmental cleaning. The use of disinfectant is only necessary if a surface is contaminated with potentially infectious material. However, the surface needs to be cleaned with detergent and water before using disinfectant or bleach.

Cloths are colour coded to reduce risk of cross contamination when cleaning the preschool. See attached.

#### Sandpit

The sand pit is securely covered when not in use to prevent contamination from animal excreta, broken glass and other objects. The sandpit is inspected daily to remove any contaminated sand or hazards. It will be raked as required and dug over monthly by educators and children to aerate, ensuring it is exposed to fresh air and sunshine.

The sand will be kept within 10cm of the top edge if the sand pit and will be completely replaced should extensive contamination occur, 'Washed beach' or 'river' sand is recommended. Each term the sand will be cleaned by putting salt in the sand and turning it over.

#### Mud kitchens and digging patches

If you are considering establishing a digging patch or mud kitchen it needs to be included in your daily safety check. It needs to be one third sand, and two thirds soil mix (Kidsafe recommendation). If purchasing garden soil, we need to check it meets Australian Standard AS4419:2018. The same procedures apply to digging patches that are used for cleaning the sand.

#### Children Who Arrive At Preschool Unwell

In the event that a child arrives at preschool unwell it will be suggested that the parent take them home until they are feeling well enough to participate in the program. If the child feels well enough they may stay and we will monitor them throughout the day. If they become unwell the parent or emergency contact will be contacted for them to come and collect the child.

#### If A Child Becomes Sick Whilst At Preschool

The child will be separated from the other children and made comfortable, whilst kept under supervision, for example, lying comfortably on a cushion in a quiet corner.

If the child is not well enough to participate in activities, their family will be contacted and asked to collect them or arrange for their nominated emergency contact to do so.

If a parent is called to collect a child early from preschool, the details will be documented in the **Incident, injury, trauma or illness record**.

In the event of vomiting or\_diarrhoea the parents will be asked to keep the child at home for 24 hours after the last time it happened.

If a child appears very unwell or has a serious injury that needs urgent medical attention, an ambulance will be called.

If a child develops a serious illness whilst at preschool and as a result needs to attend a medical practitioner or hospital, a notification also needs to be made to Early Learning.

#### Managing the Outbreak of an Infectious Disease

If a preschool child becomes unwell and it is suspected they are suffering an infectious disease, they should be separated from the other children to stop the spread of the disease. This will be done with consideration of the child's emotional wellbeing and maintaining adequate supervision. The child's family will be contacted and asked to collect the child. The details will be documented in the **incident, injury, trauma or illness record**.

After confirmation that a preschool child is suffering from an infectious disease, and as soon as practical, the family of each child in the group must be notified of the occurrence, whilst maintaining the privacy of the ill child. This may be done:

- verbally
- through a letter
- by posting a note in the foyer
- via Seesaw or Skoolbag

Families will also be provided with a factsheet related to the disease from **Staying Healthy** in **Childcare** 5<sup>th</sup> **Edition**.

The School Administration Officer-preschool (SAO-p) or school office staff will check immunisation records for any children not immunised (i.e. on a catch up schedule) and request that child to stay home.

The recommended minimum exclusion periods for a child suffering an infectious disease will be notified to the parent of the infected child.

The Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit includes a table listing the vaccine preventable diseases for which a notification must be made to the local public health unit in the event of an outbreak (phone: 1300 066 055). Educators will follow the directions given regarding the exclusion of children and the provision of information for families.

An outbreak of a serious illness poses a risk to the health of the preschool children and is considered a serious incident, and as such a notification will be made to Early Learning.

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#### Covid-19 Pandemic

#### COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - Guidance for early childhood education and care services

The international novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is evolving rapidly, with local transmission reported in NSW. Children are at the same risk of contracting COVID-19 as adults. Children are more likely to have a milder illness, and some may not have any symptoms.

## Measures to prevent and prepare your service for an outbreak of COVID-19 or other respiratory illness (e.g. influenza)

- Anyone (staff and children) who is sick with influenza-like symptoms, even with mild symptoms, **should not attend** early childhood education and care facilities.
- If a child or staff member becomes ill while they are at the service, they should be sent home as soon as possible. While awaiting collection by their carer, ideally, the symptomatic child should be cared for in an area that is separated from other children at the service. This is to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.
- Enhance hygiene practices for staff, children and visitors. Washing hands frequently is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.
   Alcohol-based hand gel is a suitable alternative if used and stored safely around children.
- Develop a process to rapidly communicate with staff (including casual workers), visitors, families and your local public health unit.
- Ensure robust infection control and cleaning and routine environmental cleaning procedures are in place. In response to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 the service should follow existing protocols for cleaning and disinfection for outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness/gastroenteritis outbreaks.
- Develop strategies (where possible) to limit movement of children staff and families between groups at the service.
- Cancel any planned activities outside of the service, such as visits to residential aged care facilities and other large gatherings.
- Promote the annual influenza vaccine for staff, children and their families.
- Face masks are not recommended for the general population. Only people with respiratory symptoms in isolation and health care workers caring for people with respiratory symptoms should wear a mask.

#### Specific prevention advice for COVID-19 related to overseas travellers

All staff and children who have recently travelled overseas must stay isolated at home for 14 days after they return. If they develop flu-like symptoms, they should call their doctor to arrange testing or go directly to a COVID-19 clinic or emergency department.

• For the most up to date Information for Early Childhood Sevices please visit <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/childcare.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/childcare.aspx</a> as information during these uncertain times is constantly being updated.

If you are notified that a child or staff member at your service has been diagnosed with COVID-19 a notification must be made to Early Learning who will contact your public health unit immediately on 1300 066 055

#### Further information

- <u>COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information for families attending early childhood education and</u> care services
- COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information for staff at early childhood education and care services
- COVID-19 Frequently asked questions

Posters and other resources

#### Immunisation Requirements

At Punchbowl Public School Preschool we comply with our legal responsibilities under the NSW Public Health Act 2010. For a child's enrolment to be accepted, their parent/guardian must provide an approved immunisation form from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). This includes either the child's AIR Immunisation History Statement or an AIR immunisation history form. A copy of this is stored with their preschool enrolment form. This documentation will show the child is:

- fully immunised for their age,
- has a medical reason not to be immunised, or
- is on a recognised catch-up schedule.

(See below for examples)

There is a 12-week temporary exemption for supply of the history statement or form for:

- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child
- a child evacuated during a state of emergency
- a child in out of home care.

The SAO-p will maintain an immunisation register that records the immunisation status of all enrolled children. This will be kept on the school server so that all administration staff can access the register. The register will be referred to in the case of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease and produced on request for inspection by a government health official or the regulatory authority (ECED).

If a child turns four whilst enrolled at preschool, the SAO-p will remind the family to supply the updated history statement or form. However, the child will not be excluded if the family does not provide the documentation, unless there is vaccine preventable disease outbreak.

#### **Key Resources**

- Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services, 5<sup>th</sup>edition, 2013 Australian Government National Health and Medical Research
- The Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit
- Exclusion Period Poster

## When to Clean and What to Use

ITEM	WHEN	WHAT TO USE
Check & clean	Daily prior to going	Gloves and disposable gloves
grounds	outside	
Tables	Before Lunch	Green cloth
	After lunch	Detergent and water
	After craft	Red cloth, detergent and water
	Any other time required	
Chairs	When required	Wiped down
		Detergent and water
Outdoor	After morning tea	Detergent and water
tablecloth		
Rubbish &	After morning tea and	Detergent and water
worm bowls	lunch	
Lunch Trolley	End of day	Detergent and water
Eskys(Cooler)	End of day	Detergent and water
Painting easel	After painting	Red craft cloth- water
Paint	After use	Detergent and water
brushes/pots		
Cleaning	2-3wks	Throw out and replace
cloths	As required	
Bathrooms	Monitored through the	Single use paper towel
	day by staff	
	End of day	Disinfectant used by contractor.
<b>Bodily Fluids</b>	As required	Gloves
		Single use paper towel to clean up excess
		Warm water and detergent, allow to dry
		Disinfect
Floors	Sweep after lunch	Broom
	As required	
	End of day	Mopped/vacuumed by contractor
Bench tops	As required	Detergent and water
	End of day	Green Cloth
Sandpit	Swept after use	Rake to remove leaves
		Broom (children help)
	Also end of term	Salted and turned over by educators and children
Deite 4	Topped up or replaced	As required or if significant contamination
Paint Aprons	Wed & Fri	Red craft cloth
In doc ::	Afternoon with an I also	Detergent and water
Indoor	After use, when being	Detergent and water
Equipment	stored After use when heins	Blue cloth
Outdoor	After use, when being	Detergent and water
Equipment	After use, when being	Blue cloth
Puzzles	After use, when being stored	Detergent and water Blue cloth
Pooks		
Books	After use, when being	Detergent and water
Cornet	stored	Blue cloth
Carpet	End of day	Vacuumed (contractor)
	End of term	Professional cleaned

## Cleaning Cloths

Punchbowl Public School Preschool

Red- Craft Equipment
Craft Table



Green- Other Tables

Benchtops

Washing Up



Blue- Equipment

Toys

Puzzles

Books





## Infectious disease notification

Date	
Reported infectious disease	
Number of cases reported	
Room or group in which the infectious disease was reported	
Steps we are taking to prevent the spread of the disease at our preschool	
What can families do to minimise the risk of infection?	

# Recommended minimum exclusion periods ADAPTED FROM STAYING HEALTHY | 5TH EDITION | 2013

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup> Not excluded  Not excluded  Exclude until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis  Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup> Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment  Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup> Not excluded  Exclude until all bisters have dried  Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	Not excluded			
Not excluded  Exclude until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non- infactious conjunctivities  Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>th</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>th</sup> Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment  Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>th</sup> Not excluded  Exclude until all bisters have dried  Exclude until all bisters have dried  Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	Not excluded			
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Exclude until all bisters have dried  Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	1.054-0.00007355			
Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	No. and Advantage of the Control of			
	Not excluded			
	Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice			
Not excluded if effective treatment begins before the next day at the education and care service. The shild does not need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected	Not excluded			
Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received and until at least 7 days after the coset of jaundice	Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group			
Not excluded	Not excluded			
Not excluded	Not excluded			
Not excluded if the person can maintain hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission. If the person cannot comply with these practices (e.g., because they are too young), they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered with a dressing, where possible	Not excluded			
Not excluded. If the person is severely immune compromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's ilnesses	Not excluded			
Not excluded	Not excluded			
Not excluded	Not excluded			
Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing	Not excluded			
	Not excluded			
Not excluded	Not excluded			
Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash	Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded For non-immunised contacts, contact a public health unit for specialist achies. All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the appearance of the rash in the last case			
Exclude until person is well	Not excluded			
Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about antibiotics and/or vaccination for people who were in the same room as the case			
Not excluded	Not excluded			
Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded			
Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded			
Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the conset of coughing	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated and incompletely vaccinated contacts, or antibiotics			
Exclude until person is well	Not excluded			
Not excluded	Not excluded			
Not excluded	Not excluded			
Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded			
Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded			
Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded			
Exclude until the day after starting appropriate treatment	Not excluded			
Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded			
Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well	Not excluded			
Not excluded	Not excluded			
Exclude until medical certificate is produced from the appropriate health authority	Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about screening, antibiotics or specialist TB clinics			
Exclude until all bisters have dried—this is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in non-immunised children, and less in immunised children	Any shild with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded			
Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded			
Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring. Exclusion is not necessary if treatment	Not excluded			
	the onset of joundice  Not excluded  Not excluded if the person can maintain hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission. If the person cannot comply with these practices (e.g., because they are too young), they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered with a dreasing, where possible  Not excluded if the person is severely immune compromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses  Not excluded  Not excluded  Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing  Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing  Exclude until person is well  Exclude until person is well  Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed  Not excluded  Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed  Not excluded  Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours  Exclude until person is well  Not excluded  Not excluded  Not excluded  Not excluded  Not excluded  Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours <sup>2</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours <sup>3</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>3</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>3</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>3</sup> Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well  Not excluded  Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>3</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>3</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>3</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>3</sup> Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>3</sup> Exclude until medical certificate is produced from the appropriate heal			













### 3. Examples of Approved Immunisation Forms

#### **AIR Immunisation History Statement**

The AIR Immunisation History Statement is mailed to parents/guardians after their child has completed their immunisations at 4 years of age. Children enrolling in early childhood services may be too young to have received all of their childhood immunisations. AIR Immunisation History Statements for children who are up to date will have the words "up to date" recorded on the top left hand side of the statement. The next immunisations and their due date will be recorded in the bottom section of the statement.

The only approved immunisation forms that can be accepted are listed at scenarios 1-4.

#### Scenario 1 - AIR Immunisation History Statement - up to date



ACTION: Select 'Up to Date - AIR Immunisation History Statement' in your immunisation register drop-down list

PAGE 6 NSW Health Immunisation Enrolment Tookit

## Scenario 2 – AIR Immunisation History Statement – fully immunised child (4 years and older)

Children who have received <u>all</u> of their scheduled immunisations by 4 years of age will receive an up to date AIR Immunisation History Statement showing that the child does not require any further immunisations before starting primary school.



ACTION: Select 'Up to Date - AIR Immunisation History Statement' in your immunisation register drop-down list

## Scenario 3 – AIR Immunisation History Statement – Medical contraindications or natural immunity

Parents/guardians of children who have a medical condition that prevents them from being immunised, or who have natural immunity to a vaccine preventable disease, should attend their GP/nurse to have an AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form completed, signed and sent to the AIR. Parents/guardians should then access an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement that records the medical contraindication/natural immunity and provide it to the early childhood service for enrolment.



ACTION: Select 'Medical Exemption - AIR Immunisation History Statement' from the drop-down list in your Immunisation Register

#### Scenario 4 - AIR Immunisation History Form - Catch-up Schedule

The AIR Australian Immunisation History Form is completed by a GP/nurse when the AIR does not have a record of immunisations given by another immunisation provider (i.e. for vaccines given overseas), and/or the GP/nurse has organised to commence the child on a catch-up schedule for any overdue vaccines. As catch-up schedules are not reflected on AIR Immunisation History Statements, an AIR Immunisation History Form must be signed and dated by a GP/nurse who must forward it to the AIR and provide a copy to the parent/guardian for enrolment.

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