

Warradale Community Children's Centre acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land we live on today and we pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islander People past, present and emerging.



Infectious Disease Policy

National Quality Standard (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing 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

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law	
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

Aim

To manage illnesses and prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout the Centre.

Implementation

Warradale Community Children's 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 implement effective hygiene practices.

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New Immunisation Requirements

- Only parents of children (less than 20 years of age) who are fully immunised or are on a recognised catch-up schedule can receive the Child Care Benefit, the Child Care Rebate 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 Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).
- 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 will no longer be a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.
- 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.

Leadership will:

- Ensure that all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority.
- Implement the recommendations from Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- Ensure that children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the service.
- Collect, maintain, and appropriately store the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children in the service.
- Ensure that a hygienic environment is maintained.
- Ensure that children are directed in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine.
- Ensure that information is collected on enrolment and maintained regarding each child's immunisation status, and any medical conditions.
- Provide families with relevant sourced materials and information on infectious diseases, health and hygiene including:
 - The current Immunisation Schedule for children
 - Exclusion guidelines in the event of an infectious illness at the 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 service.

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- Provide information to families about an infectious disease by displaying the details about any infectious disease reported to the Centre.
- Provide information to families about an infectious disease using StoryPark to provide the details about any infectious disease reported to the Centre at the Directors discretion.
- Ensure that all educators are mindful and preserve confidentiality of individual children's medical circumstances.
- Advise staff of the recommended immunisations for people working with children
- Retain current records of staff immunisation status and ensure educators are familiar with procedures for exclusion of educators as well as children in the event of an infectious illness.
- Provide opportunities for educators to source pertinent up to date information on the prevention of infectious diseases and maintaining health and hygiene from trusted sources.
- Notify and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required.
- Ensure children do not attend the Centre if they are unwell. If a child has been sick e.g., temperature or 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, they must be well for 24hrs before returning to the service.
- S.A. Health recommends that children/educators with signs of gastrointestinal illness (Norovirus) must be excluded from the centre for a period of 48 hours from the last symptom. The Director if in doubt that the child has returned to full health may request a doctor's certificate.
- To complete the register of illness a way to document incidents of infectious diseases. Some diseases require your state authority to be notified.

Educators will ensure:

- Cleaning charts are completed each day.
- That children are directed in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine.
- Ensure cloths are colour coded so that a separate cloth is used for tables, bathroom, art and craft and meal surfaces. Paper towels are used for the floor.
- Toys and equipment that are absorbent and hard to clean will be sprayed with food grade sanitiser and aired in sunlight.
- Washable toys and equipment will be washed in detergent and hot water or the dishwasher and aired to dry. All toys and equipment that have been cleaned will be recorded on the toy cleaning register.

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- That any child suspected of having an infectious illness are responded to and their health and emotional needs always supported.
- To implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when treating ill children.
- Families are aware of the need to gather their children as soon as practicable and within the hour, as the centre does not have facilities or staff to monitor child who is unwell.
- Advise families that they will need to alert the Centre if their child is diagnosed with an infectious illness.
- To maintain their own immunisation status and advise of any updates to their immunisation status.
- To provide diverse opportunities for children to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice.
- To take into consideration the combination of children to decrease the risk of attaining an infectious illness when planning the routines/program of the day.
- To adhere to the services health and hygiene policy including:
 - Hand washing
 - Daily cleaning of the service
 - Wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids)
 - Appropriate handling and preparation of food
- Maintain currency with respect to Health and Safety through on going professional development opportunities.
- Children will rest 'head to toe' to avoid cross infection while resting or asleep.
- Children are not to share beds at the same time.
- Paper Towel and disinfectant is used to clean the beds after each use.
- Any toy that is mouthed by a child is to be removed so that it can be washed with warm soapy water at the end of the day. All washable toys out on display for the children are to be washed on a weekly basis to decrease the risk of cross contamination and recorded with the date and a signature as evidence.
- All play dough is to be 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 during this time.
- Mops used for toilet accidents are to be soaked in disinfectant in a bucket in the laundry.
- A weekly clean will be 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 Centre.
- If a child has a toileting accident, the items will be placed in a bag with the child's name on it. The bag will be stored in a sealed container labelled 'soiled/wet clothing' for parents to take home.

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- After wiping a child's nose with a tissue, educators will dispose the tissue in a plastic-lined bin and wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water and dry using paper towel.

Families will:

- Advise the service of their child's immunisation status, by providing written documentation of for the service to copy and place in the child's file.
- Advise the Centre when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated and provide this information to the Centre to ensure that enrolment records are up to date.
- Provide sufficient spare clothing, particularly if your child is toilet training.
- Inform the Service if their child has an infectious disease or illness.
- Parents, families, and visitors are requested to wash their hands upon arrival and departure at the Service or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. (Note: alcohol-based sanitizers must be kept out of reach of children and used only with adult supervision.)
- Adhere to recommended periods of exclusion if their child has a virus or infectious illness. As well as provide evidence as required from doctors or specialists that the child is fit to return to care if required.

Evaluation

- This policy is viewed as working effectively when appropriate guidelines are followed, and the spread of infectious disease is kept to a minimum.

Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014)
Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015
ECA Code of Ethics
Guide to the National Quality Standard
[http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/\\$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf).
Department of Human Resources: National Immunisation Program Schedule
NHMRC

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Staying Healthy Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition
 Medicare Australia
 Public Health Act 2010 (as amended by Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013
 Public Health Regulation 2012
 Revised National Quality Standards

Record of Policy Adoption and Amendment:

Version	Date	Details	Author	Next Review Date
1.0	14/4/18	Policy developed	Dian Faranda-Pluke Lori Hay	May 2022
1.1	24/7/23	Acknowledgement on top and regulations Minor adjustments made for further disease prevention and infection control.	Michelle and Pamela	24/7/24
1.2	Sept 2024	Added to use StoryPark to communicate with families Removed children to wash hands before and after using playdough	Lori Hay	Sept 2025