



Sick Children, Infectious Diseases and Exclusion Policy

Links with *Immunisation Policy*

National Quality Standards

Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

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

Regulation 77 - Health, hygiene and safe food practices

Regulation 85 - Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures

Regulation 86 - Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness

Regulation 87 – Incident, injury, trauma and illness record

Regulation 88 – Infectious diseases

Regulation 90 - Medical conditions policy

Regulation 162 - Health information to be kept in enrolment record

Aim

By excluding one ill person, you can protect many other people from becoming ill. The need for exclusion and the length of time a person is excluded depend on how easily the infection can spread, how long the person is likely to be infectious and how severe the disease can be.

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 in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

Implementation

To protect the health of children and staff within the Service, it is important that children and staff who are ill are kept away from the service for the recommended period.

The service, including the Nominated Supervisor (Director) and Educators will ensure:

- Effective hygiene policies and procedures for Educators, families and children are adhered to.
- Effective environmental cleaning policies and procedures are adhered to.
- All families are invited to access relevant policies including; Infectious Diseases Policy and Exclusion Policy, Administration of First Aid Policy and Injury, Accident policy and Medical Emergency Policy.

- If a child needs urgent medical attention and the child's parent/guardian cannot be contacted, Educators will contact the appropriate medical professional. We will continue to attempt to contact an authorised carer for the child until one is found to care for the child.

| TEMP | ACTION |
|-----------------|---|
| Up to 37.9° | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent to be contacted. ▪ Child to be monitored at the Centre, unless other symptoms develop. ▪ Paracetamol/Nurofen not to be given. |
| 38° – 38.4° | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent to be contacted. ▪ Paracetamol/Nurofen may be given with parental consent in Enrolment Booklet. ▪ Child to be monitored at the Centre, unless other symptoms develop. |
| 38.5° and above | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent to be contacted. ▪ Paracetamol/Nurofen may be given with parental consent in Enrolment Booklet. ▪ Child to be collected from Centre immediately. ▪ 24 hour EXCLUSION before returning to Centre. |
| EXCLUSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children sent home with a temperature of 38.5° and above are not permitted to return to the Centre until 24 hours AFTER they left the premises. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children with a temp of up to 38.4° can return to the Centre the following day. HOWEVER, should they develop a temperature over 37.5° on the day they return, they will be sent home with a BPEEC Clearance Form which must be stamped by a Doctor before the child is permitted to return to the Centre. |

- Any child who registers a temperature of 38°-38.4°C or above which Nurofen/Panadol is unable to bring down, will need to be collected from the Centre. At the discretion of Centre Management, they may be excluded for 24 hours since the last elevated temperature or until the service receives a BPEEC Illness Confirmation/Clearance letter stating that the child is cleared of any infection and able to return to child care.
- Non-immunised children will not be accepted into Bayside Park Early Education Centre.

Our Service is not equipped to care for sick children; however we will do everything we can to comfort a child who has become sick whilst in our care. To prevent the spread of disease, please monitor your child's health and watch for:

- Runny, green nose
- High temperature
- Diarrhoea
- Red, swollen or discharging eyes
- Vomiting
- Rashes
- Irritability, unusually tired or lethargic

If a child becomes ill while at the service and presents with any of the above symptoms, the child's parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to collect the child. If they are unable to be contacted, an alternative authorised person listed on the enrolment form will be contacted. Sick children are unable to remain at the Service for their own well-being and for the safety of the other children.

****** The child cannot return to the service until a BPEEC Illness Confirmation/Clearance Form has been completed and STAMPED from a GP stating they are no longer contagious and the symptoms have been absent for more than 48 hours ******

- Children who have had diarrhoea and vomiting will be excluded from the Service for 48 hours after symptoms have ceased to reduce infection transmission as symptoms can develop again after 24 hours in many instances.
- A child who has passed two runny stools whilst at the Service will be sent home and may only return once a GP stamped BPEEC Confirmation/Clearance Certificate has been produced. Please note, if runny stools leak from the child's nappy on the first occasion, the child will need to go home with a BPEEC Medical Clearance Form questioning illness, allergy or dietary intolerance.
- When a child has been diagnosed with an illness or infectious disease by their GP, the service will refer to Staying Healthy in Childcare (5th Edition) to find the recommended exclusion period and also request a completed and STAMPED BPEEC Illness Confirmation/Clearance Form from the GP stating that the child is cleared to return to the childcare setting. BPEEC may impose a longer exclusion period than that outlined in Staying Healthy in Childcare if there has been more than two cases of a particular illness. This will be at the discretion of the Centre, and will override Staying Healthy in Childcare guidelines if necessary.

Bayside Park Early Education Centre
Policy Document: Sick Children, Infectious Diseases and Exclusion

Updated 12 December 2016

Due for Review 11 December 2017

- When an infectious disease has been diagnosed by a GP, the service will display appropriate documentation and alerts for families including information on the illness/disease, symptoms, infectious period and the exclusion period. (This information can be obtained from Staying Healthy In Child Care 5th Edition)
- Any outbreak (more than 3 cases) of any illness within the Centre will be reported to the Public Health Unit on (07) 3176 4000. The confidentiality of the child/family will be respected, however it may be necessary for us to provide them with information relevant to the illness. Although not all illnesses are notifiable, Bayside Park Early Education Centre may elect to notify of an outbreak such as Hand, Foot and Mouth, Gastro etc in an effort to assist the Public Health Unit to identify the potential source of illness.
- The service will keep records of any illness in children, Educators or other staff at the education and care service. It may also be useful for the parents and the child's doctor to have written information on the child's illness. It is important to record which part of the education and care service the child/person was in for most of the day.

Sample record of illness in the education and care service;

| Name | Age | Symptoms | Room | Date | Time of onset | Comments |
|--------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Child's name | 2 years | Rash on head and neck | Toddlers | 4 May 2011 | 2pm | Grandma contacted. Will collect |
| Child's name | 6 months | Fever, runny nose | Infants | 5 May 2011 | 1.30pm | Dad contacted. Paracetamol given |
| Child's name | 4 years | Weeping eye | Preschool | 5 May 2011 | 4pm | Mum contacted. Will collect |
| Child's name | Educator | Weeping eye | Preschool | 5 May 2011 | 5pm | Father contacted- Will collect |

Records will help prevent the spread of infection, showing when the Service's approach to infection control is working. They will also be used for staff and public health workers to identify the cause of any outbreak and how to control it.

- Bayside Park EEC will consider the attached Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion to exclude children and Educators and inform parents of exclusion and non-exclusion periods for infectious diseases. We will minimise the spread of potential infectious diseases between the child, other children and Educators by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend Bayside Park EEC. In addition, we will also facilitate the prevention and effective management of acute illness in children.
- Notification of the child's parents or nominated contacts will occur immediately.
- All appropriate notifications to the local Public Health Unit are available under the 'Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit' and must occur within 24 hours. The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for notifying the local Public Health Unit, and may at times choose to notify of illnesses that are not officially considered "notifiable",
- At times, children might inadvertently be brought to care with symptoms or signs of illness, or while in care suddenly develop a potentially infectious or life-threatening illness that has not been diagnosed by a doctor. Symptoms may not clearly fit those listed in exclusion diseases making it difficult for Bayside Park EEC to decide whether to accept or exclude the child from Bayside Park EEC. Many illnesses, while not fitting exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care, and many non-exclusion diseases can make a child too ill to participate in normal care activities.

If an infectious disease arises at Bayside Park EEC we will respond to any symptoms in the following manner -

- Make every effort to isolate the child from other children.
- Ensure the child is comfortable and appropriately supervised by Staff.
- Contact the child's parents or nominated Emergency Contact. If the child's parents are unavailable, we will contact the next nominated person. We will inform the contact of the child's condition and ask for a parent or other authorised person to pick the child up as quickly as possible. Any person picking the child up from Bayside Park EEC must be approved by the child's parents and be able to show identification.
- Ensure all bedding, towels and clothing which has been used by the child is disinfected/steamed as appropriate. These items will be washed separately and if possible air-dried in the sun.
- Ensure all toys used by the child are disinfected/steamed, as appropriate.
- Ensure all eating utensils used by the child are separated and sterilised.
- Provide information in the child's home languages to the best of our ability.
- Inform all service families and Educators of the presence of an infectious disease.

- Ensure the confidentiality of any personal health related information obtained by Bayside Park EEC and Educators in relation to any child or their family.
- If a child or Educator has been unable to attend Bayside Park EEC because of an infectious illness the person must provide a **BPEEC Confirmation/Clearance** certificate which has been stamped by a Doctor and specifically states the child/Educator is fit to return to Bayside Park EEC.

Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit

Infectious Diseases only require notification from clinicians. A list of diseases can be found on pages one and two of the following form –

http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/cdb/notif_conditions_rpt.pdf

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend that Educators should be immunised against -

- Hepatitis A.
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR).

Educators born during, or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have antibodies for rubella, require vaccination.

- Varicella, if they have not previously been infected with chicken pox.
- Pertussis. An adult booster dose is especially important for those Educators caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated.

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.

Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

National Health and Medical Research Council

Staying Healthy in Child Care. 5th edition, Commonwealth of Australia 2005.

Children who are unwell should not attend Bayside Park EEC.

Definition of 'Contacts' will vary according to disease. Please refer to specific Fact Sheets for definition of 'Contacts'.

Amoebiasis (*Entamoeba histolytica*)

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Campylobacter

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Candidiasis (See 'Thrush')

Chickenpox (*Varicella*)

Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in unimmunised children and less in immunised children. Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded.

CMV (*Cytomegalovirus* infection)

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Cryptosporidium infection

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours.
Exclusion of Contacts – Not excluded.

Diarrhoea (No organism identified)

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Diphtheria

Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least 2 negative throat swabs, the first swab not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics followed by another swab 48 hours later.

Exclude contacts that live in the same house until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority.

German measles (See 'Rubella')

Giardiasis

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Glandular fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

Exclude until all blisters have dried.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days.

A Medical Certificate is required to confirm fit for returning to care at Bayside Park Early Education Centre.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Head lice (Pediculosis)

Bayside Park Early Education Centre will ask for a child to be collected from the Centre immediately upon the identification of Head Lice. The child may return to the Centre immediately after thorough treatment has been administered, however no signs of head lice should be visible. A Staff Member will assist parents to check that there are no signs of head lice prior to the child being left at the Centre after treatment.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Hepatitis A

Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before seven days after the onset of jaundice.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Hepatitis B

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Hepatitis C

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)

Exclusion is not necessary if the person is developmentally capable of maintaining hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission.

If the person is unable to comply with these practices they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered by a dressing where possible.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)

Exclusion is NOT necessary. If the person is severely immunocompromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Hydatid disease

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Impetigo (school sores)

Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing. A Bayside Park Early Education Centre Staff Member will assist parents to check that any sores on exposed skin have been covered sufficiently prior to the child being left at the Centre after exclusion.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Influenza and influenza-like illnesses

Exclude until well.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Legionnaires' disease

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Leprosy

Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Measles

Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash.

Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded. Non-immunised contacts of a case are to be excluded from child care until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case, unless immunised within 72 hours of first contact during the infectious period with the first case.

All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case.

A Medical Certificate is required to confirm fit for returning to care at Bayside Park Early Education Centre.

Meningitis (bacterial)

Exclude until well and has received appropriate antibiotics.

A Medical Certificate is required to confirm fit for returning to care at Bayside Park Early Education Centre.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Meningitis (viral)

Exclude until well.

A Medical Certificate is required to confirm fit for returning to care at Bayside Park Early Education Centre.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Meningococcal infection

Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed.

A Medical Certificate is required to confirm fit for returning to care at Bayside Park Early Education Centre.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Molluscum contagiosum

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Mumps

Exclude for nine days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Norovirus

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Parvovirus infection (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome).

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Pertussis (See 'Whooping Cough')

Respiratory Syncytial virus

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Ringworm/tinea

Exclude until the day after appropriate antifungal treatment has commenced. A Bayside Park Early Education Centre Staff Member will assist parents to ensure that all exposed sores are sufficiently covered before the child is left at the Centre after identification of Ringworm/Tinea.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Roseola

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Ross River virus

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Rotavirus infection

Children are to be excluded from Bayside Park EEC until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Rubella (German measles)

Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of the rash.

A Medical Certificate is required to confirm fit for returning to care at Bayside Park Early Education Centre.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Salmonella infection

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Scabies

Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Scarlet fever (See 'Streptococcal sore throat')

School sores (See 'Impetigo')

Shigella infection

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)

Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 48 hours and feels well.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Thrush (candidiasis)

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Toxoplasmosis

Exclusion is NOT necessary.

Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Exclude until medical certificate is produced from an appropriate health authority.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Typhoid, Paratyphoid

Exclude until medical certificate is produced from appropriate health authority
Contacts - Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities.

Varicella See 'Chickenpox'

Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)

Children are to be excluded until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Warts

Exclusion is NOT necessary.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Whooping cough (pertussis)

Exclude until five days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment or for 21 days from the onset of coughing. Contacts that live in the same house as the case and have received less than three doses of pertussis vaccine are to be excluded from Bayside Park EEC until they have had 5 days of an appropriate course of antibiotics. If antibiotics have not been taken, these contacts must be excluded for 21 days after their last exposure to the case while the person was infectious.

A Medical Certificate is required to confirm fit for returning to care at Bayside Park Early Education Centre.

Worms

Exclude if loose bowel motions present.
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard

Department of Health and Aging, National Immunisation Program Schedule

NHMRC. Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing infectious diseases in child care 5th edition

Public Health Act 2005

Public Health Regulation 2005

*** Please note that for some illnesses, exclusion may be imposed at the discretion of Bayside Park Early Education Centre.**

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. The review will be conducted by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

Last reviewed: September 2016

Date for next review: September 2017

Signature of Director: _____

Bayside Park Early Education Centre