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## **2.14 Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc.**

### **Infectious Disease and Vaccination Policy**

**Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc. (CCSTD) shall ensure that the work and living environment or surrounding areas is maintained in a manner that enhances safety and wellbeing for everyone. CCSTD has a statutory obligation to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all its staff, support workers, participants, visitors and stakeholders.**

**CCSTD is committed to preventing or minimising infectious diseases within the workplace.**

**Please see the Covid 19 Response Plan for more specific details on the Service's Response in regards to the Covid 19 Pandemic.**

#### **The Purpose of the Policy:**

The way that participants interact with each other, with providers and with other stakeholder's means that diseases can quickly spread in a variety of ways. Whilst it is not possible to prevent the spread of all infections and diseases, minimising the risk is enhanced through:

- Effective hand hygiene;
- Exclusion of ill participants, support workers and staff
- Immunisation.

#### **Strategies - Effective Hygiene**

Our service will maintain and promote effective hygiene practices, including;

- Correct handwashing technique
- Using standard precautions when handling blood, all body fluids, secretions and excretions, dried blood and other body substances.
- Cleaning toys and other items that participants are likely to put in their mouths, after use;
- Disposing of soiled items in a container that is inaccessible to children;
- Actively promote handwashing and other hygiene practices with participants and families.

#### **Strategies - Exclusion of Ill Participants and Support Workers**

In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through interpersonal contact, our service will adhere to the exclusion period provided by Staying Healthy in Childcare or Department of Health Guidelines

A temperature over 38°C indicates a fever. A fever is usually caused by an infection somewhere in the body. Some types of infections that lead to fever include:

- viral (caused by a virus) – A viral illness, such as cold, flu or gastroenteritis
- bacterial (caused by bacteria) – such as some ear infections, pneumonia or urine infections.

If a child has a temperature over 38 then support worker is to contact parent or emergency contact and advise.

A Hazard/Incident Report Form must also be completed as per policy.

#### **Strategies – Immunisation**

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.

Medicare Immunisation status report is requested for every child at the time of engagement or noted as to reason for non- immunisation on Service Agreement

### **Risk Management Approach**

Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc. has a duty of care to safeguard participants, families and workers from infectious disease. The following strategies are provided to be used in everyday practices;

- A hygienic environment is maintained
- Participants are directed in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine
- Support workers are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for participants and themselves
- Information is collected on intake and maintained regarding each participants immunisation status, and any medical conditions;
- Have available relevant sourced materials and information on infectious diseases, health and hygiene including:
  - the current NSW 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 of 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
- Staff and support workers are mindful and preserve confidentiality of individual participants medical circumstances
- Participants records are updated with regards to immunisation as required, (i.e. as children reach age milestones for immunisation)
- Notify and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required
- Participants will not receive support if a participant has an infectious illness, A doctors certificate may be requested by the Provider if in doubt that the participant has returned to full health
- When a participant is ill due to an infectious or contagious disease, they are to remain out of care for the exclusion period stated in table 1.1 (extract from 'Staying Healthy in Child Care 5<sup>th</sup> Edition); a doctor's certificate does not override these exclusion periods
- Symptoms such as, but not limited to, diarrhoea, vomiting, rash, excessive green or yellow nose discharge, mouth ulcers and headache may be signs of a serious or infectious disease; participants with these symptoms and/or when a family notifies that the participant is too ill to attend care, should be excluded until they have recovered or have a certificate from their doctor
- If a participant is not infectious but the nature of their illness requires the child's condition to be closely monitored, they are able to receive support from CCSTD during this period of the illness after consultation with Coordinator or Manager.
- If during support a participant is suspected of having an infectious illness they are responded to and their health and emotional needs are supported.
- Support workers must implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when treating ill participants.
- Providers must advise families that they will need to alert the service if the participant is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness

- Support workers must allow for diverse opportunities for participants to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice;
- If a Participant becomes ill whilst in being supported, the support worker completes an Incident, Injury, trauma\_and Illness record form and contacts the Participants Representative immediately to make alternative arrangements
- Providers share with parents or the Participants Representative, any observations in regards to their health
- When they or a member of their household contracts an infectious disease, the support worker does not provide care for the exclusion period
- Participants or participants representative will advise the service of their immunisation status, by providing approved documentation for the service to copy and place in the participants file.
- Alternate support for the participant will be organised by the participants representative if they are sick
- In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, support workers must notify the manager, who will notify the Public Health Unit of cases of the following; diphtheria, measles, mumps, poliomyelitis, rubella (German measles), whooping cough (pertussis), tetanus and Hib. All staff support workers and participants will abide by their directives.
- The manager will seek advice from the Public Health Unit if there is an outbreak of gastroenteritis, meningitis, food poisoning, streptococcal infection, tuberculosis or hepatitis

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<b>Condition</b>	<b>Exclusion of case</b>	<b>Exclusion of contacts<sup>a</sup></b>
Hydatid disease	Not excluded	Not excluded
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing	Not excluded
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Listeriosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
Measles	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 advice All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the appearance of the rash in the last case
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	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
Molluscum contagiosum	Not excluded	Not excluded
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded
Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded
Pertussis (whooping cough)	Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the onset of coughing	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated contacts, or antibiotics
Pneumococcal disease	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Roseola	Not excluded	Not excluded
Ross River virus	Not excluded	Not excluded
Rotavirus infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until the person has fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
Salmonellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
Scabies	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate treatment	Not excluded
Shigellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well	Not excluded
Toxoplasmosis	Not excluded	Not excluded

Condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts <sup>a</sup>
Tuberculosis (TB)	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
Varicella (chickenpox)	Exclude until all blisters have dried—this is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in non-immunised 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 as they are at high risk of developing severe disease Otherwise, not excluded
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
Worms	Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring Exclusion is not necessary if treatment has occurred	Not excluded

a The definition of 'contacts' will vary according to the disease—refer to the specific fact sheet for more information.

b If the cause is unknown, possible exclusion for 48 hours until the cause is identified. However, educators and other staff who have a food handling role should always be excluded until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours. Adapted from SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/ygw/index.htm>. Note that exclusion advice is consistent with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia Series of National Guidelines (SoNGs), where available.

Some diseases—such as pertussis, typhoid, tuberculosis, meningococcal disease and hepatitis A—can cause concern among parents and sometimes interest from the media. Education and care services should consult their local public health unit, which can provide support and education in the event of a concerning disease.

## Relevant Legislation and Standards

- NDIS Practice Standards
- NDIS Code of Conduct
- NSW Disability Service Standards (NSW DSS)
- NDIS Terms of Business
- Health Records and Information Privacy Code of Practice 2005 (NSW)
- Freedom of Information Act 1982
- Privacy and Personal Information Act 1988 (NSW)
- The Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014 (NSW)
- Disability Services Act (2011)
- Disability Services Regulations (2015)
- Personal Information Protection Act (2004)
- National Standards for Disability Services
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
- Public Health Act 2010