

EXCLUSION AND STAYING HEALTHY POLICY

Unley Community Childcare Centre believes that ensuring the health and safety of children, families and employees, and supporting children's ongoing wellbeing, is a fundamental provision of an education and care service. Educators in a service need to be aware of the likelihood of young children being exposed to an infectious illness whilst in care.

Maintaining hygiene practices within the service and teaching young children about health and hygiene will assist in the prevention of infectious diseases. Providing families with timely and current information will further support this process.

Strategy

We will achieve this by excluding children and employees who are ill, advocating good hygiene processes and following the recommendations as set out in "5th Edition Staying Healthy in childcare - Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services" handbook and recommendations from the Government of South Australia - SA Health and recommendations from SA Health.

Unley Community Childcare Centre health and hygiene policies recommend all employees strictly adhere to practices such as regular hand washing with running water and soap, the use of surgical gloves when handling blood, vomit, urine or faeces, individual face and hand towels/washers and strict washing machine procedures.

Immunisations for children and employees

The centre requires all children to be fully immunised in accordance with the National Immunisation Program Schedule to use the service. From August 2020 the South Australian Government has introduced "No Jab No Play" meaning that children who aren't immunised, are unable to provide a current a immunisation record or are unable to provide a medical exemption for immunisations will be refused care.

Childcare centres are required to keep immunisation records of children attending the centre. These records assist staff in identifying children who may be at risk if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease. For this reason each family must provide an immunisation history statement record on enrolment which will be kept in the Childs enrolment file and then for each subsequent immunisation to ensure that all children in the centre are always immunised. An immunisation history statement can be provided from Medicare or downloaded through the families Centrelink My Gov app, for any families who fail to provide these records care will be suspended until such time as the records are produced. Immunisation records from children's blue books are not acceptable.

In the case of a child who can't be immunised according to the National Immunisation Program Schedule due to medical reasons the family must supply the Centre with a letter from the doctor stating what the medical reason is and why the child is unable to be immunised.

Families will be notified of infectious illnesses in the Centre via a sign on the white board in the hallway. For large outbreaks of infectious diseases, the director may notify families via email with preventable measures, signs and symptoms.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend that all employees are immunised against:

- **Pertussis (whooping cough)** - this is especially important for employees caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated. Even if the adult was vaccinated in childhood, a booster vaccination may be necessary as immunity to pertussis decreases over time.
- **Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)** - for educators and other staff born during or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have antibodies against rubella.
- **Varicella (chicken pox)** - for educators and other staff who have not previously had varicella (a blood test is required to prove previous infection).
- **Hepatitis A** - because young children can be infectious even if they are not showing symptoms.

All employees should also consider having yearly **influenza** vaccinations. Influenza is very infectious and can spread through the air by coughing and sneezing, as well as by hands, cups and other objects that have been in contact with an infected person's mouth or nose.

Infected employees may be excluded from the centre. See the list of NHMRC Exclusion Periods as stated in the 5th Edition Staying Healthy - Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.

Infectious Diseases during Pregnancy

Employees who are pregnant need to be aware of how some infections can affect the unborn child.

Please refer to Section 4.3 Infectious diseases in pregnancy in 5th Edition Staying Healthy – Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.

Other Infectious Diseases

Please refer to Part 5 in 5th Edition Staying Healthy – Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.

Exclusion/sickness

Temperature/ Fever

- A child, who has a temperature of 38 degrees or above, will be sent home and may not return to care for 24 hours and only then if they have no symptoms.

Common Colds

- Children with the common cold will be admitted to the Centre as long as they are not suffering from other symptoms such as a fever, persistent cough, coloured discharge from nose or eyes or lethargy.

Vomiting and Diarrhoea

- Families will be contacted and asked to collect their child from the Centre if their child vomits and/or has a loose bowel twice in the same day.
- If there is a known outbreak of vomiting and diarrhoea within the centre children will be sent home after 1 vomit or loose bowel.
- The child cannot return to the Centre until 24 hours after all symptoms have ceased and must provide a medical clearance from a medical practitioner.
- All employees with symptoms of diarrhoea/vomiting must be excluded from work and must not return until 24 hours after diarrhoea and vomiting ceases.
- Employees who develop symptoms at work must go home immediately.

Eye and Ear Discharge

- Families will be contacted if their child has discharge coming from their eyes or ears and will need to collect their child as soon as possible.
- A child may not return to the centre until all discharge has ceased and must provide a medical clearance from a medical practitioner.

Head Lice

- Families will be contacted if eggs or live lice are spotted on their child's scalp. The parent must collect their child as soon as possible and the child may only return once effective treatment has begun and all live lice are dead.

COVID19

- All children and employees are to be sent home if they are displaying 2 or more symptoms of COVID19 including, persistent cough, fever, shortness of breath, unexplained loss of smell or altered sense of taste, chills or body aches, sore throat, headaches, runny nose or diarrhoea. Any child who is sent home due to displaying 2 or more of the above symptoms may require a doctor's clearance to return to care stating they aren't contagious and are fit to return to normal routine and play at whilst at childcare. It is the decision of the doctor if a COVID-19 test must be performed. Any child or employee who makes the centre aware that they are being tested for COVID19 **will not** be able to return to the centre with a doctor's clearance stating that they have tested negative for COVID19 and are cleared to return to childcare. Should children or educators display two or more symptoms upon return they will be sent home and will require a new clearance from the doctor.

All General illness

- As a general rule, children should not be brought into the Centre unless they are able to cope with normal childcare routines and experiences. Should a child appear to be in discomfort, the family may receive a courtesy call to advise them and allow them the opportunity to collect their child if they wish.
- Under the Directors discretion a clearance letter may be requested from the Doctor.
- Educators will ensure that a child illness record is completed prior to the child being collected, signed by the director or responsible person in charge, signed by the family and copied for the family to take with them.
- Any child or employee who has been requested to present a medical clearance prior to returning to the centre must provide one before returning.

See table 1.1- Recommended minimum exclusion periods- 5th Edition Staying Healthy in Childcare.

Administration of Medication

Please refer to Medication and Medical conditions policy

Sources

Guide to National Quality Framework (Feb 2018)

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018

EYLF- Belonging, Being, Becoming (2009)

5th Edition to Staying Health in Childcare- Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services

Government of South Australia SA Health

Health and Safety in Children's Services Model Policies and Practices- 2nd Edition

National Health and Medical Research Council: www.nhmrc.gov.au

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). *The Australian immunisation handbook* 10th edition (2017 update)

Model Work Health and Safety Act revised draft June 2011 (Safework Australia, Safework SA)

CHESS/DECD (Department for Education and Child Development)

SA Health Website www.covid-19.sa.gov.au

Related Policies

Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy

Medication and Medical Conditions Policy

Parent handbook

Employee handbook

NQS

QA2	2.1	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
QA6	6.1.3	Current information is available to families about the service and relevant community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing.

National Regulations

Reg	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
	168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
	183	Storage of records and other documents

Date Reviewed: Feb 2021

Next Review Date: Feb 2022

Policy Created	Jan 2016
Revision Date	Summary of Changes
02/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated in line with the National Quality Framework Feb 2018 Updated in line with Education and Care Services National Regulation Reviewed in line with the EYLF Additional information regarding Related Policies Reviewed in line with best practice Reviewed in line with Unley CCC practices and procedures
14/2/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated immunisation to reflect "no jab no pay" scheme Updated procedure for child with temperature in line with best practice Updated immunisation history record in line with recent legislative requirements from SA Health
15/7/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated to include "no jab no Play" scheme beginning August 7th 2020 Include COVID19 and steps to be taken
6/8/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated COVID-19 details Removed all infectious diseases information and referred to latest version of Staying Healthy in Childcare. Updated headline recommendations and removed policy to streamline
15/2/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added if a known outbreak of vomiting and diarrhea is present a child to be sent home after one vomit Updated COVID-19 details in line with SA health