**ILLNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY**

**AIM:**

Holistic Approach Family Day Care Schemewill minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children by excluding children, educators/staff, and visitors, who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend

Holistic Approach Family Day Care Scheme aims to promote a healthy environment for learning and working. In order to prevent the spread of infection, children, staff and visitors with infectious diseases and illnesses will be excluded in accordance with the guidelines set by the Department of Health.

It is the responsibility under the Public Health Act 2010 for Holistic Approach Family Day Care Scheme to report all notifiable diseases to the Public Health Unit and act as according to their directions.

**Implementation:**

To minimise the spread of infectious disease between children, educators/staff and visitors, Holistic Approach Family Day Care Schemewill:

* exclude from care and notify the local Public Health Unit and provide details of any known or suspected persons with any of the following vaccine preventable diseases:
  + Diphtheria
  + Poliomyelitis
  + German Measles
  + Tetanus
  + Measles
  + Mumps
  + Whooping Cough
  + Chicken Pox
* exclude a child or educator/staff member with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have a potentially serious illness:
  + vomiting,
  + rash, especially if purplish or hemorrhaging spots (possibly meningococcal) or blistering (possibly staphylococcal),
  + headache,
  + stiffness of the neck,
  + aversion to light (photophobia),
  + drowsiness or any unusual state of consciousness or behaviour,
  + convulsion or epileptic seizure.
  + severe pain anywhere (including toothache),
  + swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue, throat, neck or airways,
  + hives,
  + asthma, wheezing, or any difficulty breathing
* exclude a child or educator /staff member with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have an infectious illness:
  + diarrhea,
  + generalised rash,
  + enlarged or tender lymph glands,
  + severe cough with fever,
  + head lice, nits, scabies, ringworm, impetigo, or mouth ulcers not yet treated,
  + mouth ulcers due to herpes simplex virus or coxsackie virus,
  + infection or yellow or green discharge of the eyes or ears,
  + if any other infectious disease is suspected.
* Exclude children, educators/staff, volunteers or visitors who have infectious diseases other than listed above in accordance with the NHMRC Recommended Minimum periods of exclusion and educators will inform parents of exclusion and non-exclusion periods for infectious diseases. Educators should have a copy of the recommended exclusion periods poster available at: <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch55e_exclusion_period_poster_130701.pdf>
* Notification of the child’s parents or nominated contacts will occur immediately. Contact the child’s parents/guardians or, if they are unable to be contacted, an authorised nominee for emergencies as listed on the enrolment form. Inform the parents/guardian or authorised nominee of the child’s condition, or suspected condition, and ask that the child be picked up from the Service as soon as possible.
* Ensure all educators/staff and persons working at the Service comply with all infectious disease policies and procedures.
* Educators and HAFDC staff must ensure confidentiality of any personal health related information obtained by the service in relation to any child or family members.
* If possible isolate the child from other children until they are able to be collected from care. Make sure the child is comfortable, and is still under the educators supervision.
* Ensure all bedding, towels, clothing, etc., which has been used by the child is disinfected – these articles should be washed separately and, if possible, aired in the sun to dry.
* Ensure all contact toys are separated and disinfected.
* Ensure all eating utensils are separated and sterilised.
* Inform all families of the presence of an infectious disease within the Service verbally and by poster at service.
* The service will ensure confidentially of any personal or health related information obtained by the Service, in relation to any children, educators/staff, children’s parents/guardian and families.
* If a child or an educator has been unable to attend the Service because of an infectious illness, when the child or an educator has fully recovered the family, or an educator/staff member must obtain a certificate from their doctor which specifically states the child or an educator is not infectious and is able to attend care, or return to work.

**If a child has not been vaccinated, they may be required to be excluded from care during outbreaks of some infectious diseases, even if their child is well. (Depending on advice from the Public Health Unit)**

The Approved Provider /Nominated Supervisor/ Consultant will contact:

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER 1300 066 055

NSW- 02 9391 9000

QLD- 07 3328 9724 or 07 3328 9728

TAS- 1800 671 738

VIC- 1300 651 160

If a child or educator has been hospitalised a doctor’s certificate will be required to ensure they are well enough to attend child care. 24 hours needs to have lapsed, since the child / educator was discharged from the hospital, before they can return to care.

If a child has had medical treatment for broken bones the child is required to have had a 24 hour period with plaster etc, before returning to the Service along with a medical clearance.

If a child has required antibiotics or other medication they are required to have taken them at least 24 hours prior to coming into care (this will enable the child to be monitored at home for allergies to medication).

**Teething:**

Many children may show mild symptoms that could be related to teething. These symptoms could include irritability, drooling, nappy rash, red cheeks, ear aches, high temperatures and diarrhea.

Although these symptoms may relate to the child’s teething it is important for parents to seek medical advice to ensure that their child is well. If children show signs of being unwell and parents feel it is related to teething, parents are still asked to keep their children absent from the Service until they are well again.

Please Note: Children are not to be administered Panadol / paracetamol at any time when in a family day care service, unless in an emergency and parent / guardian permission has been sought. Children will need to be collected from care or seek medical assistance once Panadol / paracetamol has been administered.

***A serious incident that must be reported within 24hrs, is when reasonable person should consider required urgent medical attention from a medical practioner or hospital, examples would include: Whooping Cough, broken limbs or anaphylaxis***.

**Legislative Requirements / Source:**

Education and Care Services National Law Act

Education and Care Services National Regulations

National Quality Standards

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Public Health Act and Regulation (NSW) 1991

Public Health Act 2010

Staying Healthy in Child Care (Edition 5)

**Review Process:**

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| **Version:** | **Date:** | **Responsible Person:** |
| 1 | December, 2013 | Tracey Yeomans |
| 2 | January, 2015 | Tracey Yeomans / Vicki Carmichael |
| 3 | January 2017 | Lucinda Stott/ Vicki Carmichael |
| 4 | March 2018 | Michelle Florimo |

This policy is the intellectual property of Holistic Approach Family Day Care Scheme and is created with consultation of staff and families attending the service.

This policy will be reviewed as required.

This policy is available in other languages upon request*.*