



# Communicable Diseases

## Purpose

This policy states Sturt Streets Children's Centre guidelines on how to minimise the risk of infectious diseases being spread, by implementing everyday procedures and standard precautions which treat blood and other body fluids as potentially infectious.

## Aim

- To provide a safe environment in which children can develop to their full potential.
- To promote the involvement and education of parents, other family members, and the community in communicable disease issues.
- To promote healthy practices in child care and preschool
- To ensure that the symptoms of children who are unwell are identified and appropriate action taken.
- To minimise the spread of infection.
- To provide up-to-date information about the management of childhood illnesses.

## Policy Statement

Hygiene – the Centre will:

- adhere to the National Quality Standards that require buildings, grounds and all equipment and furnishings to be maintained in a safe, clean and hygienic condition.
- ensure hygiene procedures and precautions are adhered to at all times (refer to Hygiene policy).
- Staff dealing with body fluids, open sores, and cuts wear disposable gloves.
- If a staff member has a wound or a skin condition such as dermatitis or eczema, they cover any open wound and wear disposable gloves.
- If a child has an open wound/lesion, it is covered by parents/staff with a secure waterproof dressing. If this is not possible, a child should remain away from the Centre until lesions have healed or can be covered (refer to Hygiene policy).

Common infectious diseases – the Centre will ensure:

If there is an occurrence of an infectious at an education and care service, the approved provider of the service must ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease at the service.

- Parents/guardians are informed (by means of notices at the Centre entrance and via Health alert emails) about common infectious diseases in the Centre i.e. chicken pox.
- Parents of children with impaired immunity will be advised about outbreaks of contagious diseases to enable them to make informed decisions about whether their child attends the Centre.

Education and prevention – the Centre will ensure that:

- Fears and prejudices in relation to communicable diseases i.e. HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C are addressed, and recognise that current information and the correct presentation method can minimise negative reactions.
- up-to-date information is available to parents, families and staff.



- Staff, parents and governing committee members are able to participate in seminars/workshops as appropriate.
- Brochures with information on blood-borne communicable diseases are available at the Centre.

### **Confidentiality**

If a staff member is advised that a child or family member, or another staff member has a communicable disease, the information must remain confidential.

Only with the written consent of the person with the communicable disease or from the parent/guardian can this information be shared with other staff members. Breaches of confidentiality will result in disciplinary action.

Families are strongly encouraged to share confidential information regarding their health status with the director, and/or another staff member, to ensure their interests are protected.

### **Source**

Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 (Commonwealth).

*Staying Healthy – Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood and care services*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, NHMRC, 2012.

*OHSW Code of Practice - Hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS in the Workplace.*

*Regulations 88 infectious diseases*

### **Related Documents**

Confidentiality and Privacy Policy

Hygiene Policy

Anti-Bias Policy

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Policy name:            | Communicable Diseases – page 2 of 2 |
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