



Waikerie Children's Centre
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Waikerie SA 5330
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INFECTION AND EXCLUSION POLICY

Rationale

Infections are common in children and often lead to illness. Spending time in a children's centre and being exposed to a large number of children, provides an opportunity for infectious diseases to be spread. It is not possible to prevent the spread of all infections and illness within children's centres. However, many illnesses from infectious disease can be prevented. The spread of certain infectious diseases can be reduced by excluding a person who is known to be infectious, from contact with others who are at risk of catching the infection.

We ask parents to respect the rights of other children by keeping their children home when unwell.

The Centre follows the guidelines set out in the publication of "*Staying Healthy in Child Care-Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care- 5th Edition*", Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council. A fact sheet outlining the recommended minimum exclusion periods for specific infectious conditions for schools, preschools and child care centres is available for parents to view. A copy of information outlining the exclusion periods for more common infectious conditions is included in the parent handbook or a full copy can be accessed at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications>

In the case of communicable diseases, a notice will be displayed on the communication board to inform parents and caregivers of what diseases we have been informed of within then centre.

Children and adults who have a contagious illness will not be accepted at the Centre and cannot return until the advised exclusion period is over – (refer to the Recommended minimum exclusion periods for infectious conditions for schools, preschools and child care centres).

When a child becomes ill at the Centre, the parents or emergency contact person(s) will be contacted to advise them of the child's illness and the need to collect them from the Centre. Every attempt is made to cater for the child's needs until the child can be collected. Emergency contact details for each child should be kept up to date to ensure child can be collected and cared for when parent is not available or cannot be contacted.

If an infectious child is not collected by a parent or emergency contact person(s) immediately, and in view of the visual signs of the illness, the staff may consider seeking further medical attention via an ambulance.

SOURCED FROM:

NHMRC: Staying Healthy in Child Care-Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care 5th edition (2013)
National Quality Framework

Updated August 2020

Review due August 2022

ILLNESS AND IMMUNISATION

If a child is sick and unable to attend Pre-School or Child Care parents are asked to telephone the Centre and inform them about their child's illness.

All children are required to be immunised. As of August 7th 2020, the No Jab, No Play Legislation began meaning that children cannot attend the centre if we do not have a record of their current immunisation or an approved Exemption Notice from the Chief Public Health Officer. Various exempt conditions apply and can be accessed further on the SA Health website.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO COMMON INFECTIONS & DISEASE

INFECTION/DISEASE	PERIOD OF EXCLUSION FROM CENTRE
Vomiting	Until there has been no vomiting for 24 hours
Diarrhoea	Until there has been no loose bowel motion for 24 hours
High Temperature	Not accepted at Centre with high temperature
Headlice	Until effective treatment has been given
Conjunctivitis (Viral & Bacterial)	Until discharge from eyes has stopped
Cold Sores	Until sores have dried
Hand, Foot & Mouth	Until all blisters have dried
Chicken Pox	Until all blisters have dried

Details about specific contagious illness will be displayed on notice boards if any child in the Centre contracts such a disease.