

## Child health policy

HS24 -30

**RATIONALE:** Parents and kaiako share the responsibility for creating a healthy centre environment, which will protect and nurture children. Exclusion of children with infectious diseases from early childhood centres is necessary where there is potential for further spread of infection. We wish to make children and adults safe from infection by clearly stating under what circumstances a child should be excluded. Exclusion is at the centre manager's discretion.

**TE WHĀRIKI** Well-being - Goal 1: Children experience an environment where their health is promoted.

### PROCEDURES

- parental concerns that a child may be unwell should be shared with kaiako upon arrival at the centre. This means kaiako should be vigilant and alert to any changes in behaviour, or signs of illness, and can respond to children's needs promptly.
- A child suffering from any of the following symptoms (see below) will be required to leave the centre. If a parent is unavailable or unable to remove their child soon enough, the emergency contact person listed on the child's enrolment form will be contacted.
- Reasons to exclude a child from the centre as follows:
  - The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in programme activities. The illness results in greater care needed than the centre can reasonably provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
  - The child has any of the following conditions: fever (38.3 degrees Celsius and over), persistent crying, difficulty breathing, persistent coughing, persistent runny nose, or other signs of possible illness.
  - No child with vomiting or diarrhoea should attend. Children must be symptom free for 48 hours, must be able to keep food down for those 48 hours and must have had at least one normal bowel motion before returning.

- **Rash** with fever or behaviour change - until a doctor has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease.
  - **Conjunctivitis** – until the child has been treated and there is no discharge coming from the eyes
  - **Tuberculosis** - until the child's physician or the Public Health Service advises that the child is non-infectious.
  - **Impetigo** - until 24 hours after treatment has started.
  - **Strep throat** - until 24 hours after treatment has started, and until 24 hours after fever stops.
  - **Head lice** and/or nits - until treatment has commenced and hair has been thoroughly combed. Public health recommends daily combing for 3 weeks to ensure hair is free of nits/lice.
  - **Thread worm** - until treatment is completed.
  - **Scabies** - until after treatment has been completed.
  - **Chickenpox** - until at least six days after onset of rash, or earlier, if all the lesions have dried and crusted.
  - **Whooping cough** - until five days of appropriate antibiotic therapy (the total course of the usual treatment is 14 days.)
  - **Mumps** - until nine days after glands started swelling.
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- For some vaccine preventable diseases, there is a requirement to exclude unimmunised children who have had contact with a case of the disease. This applies to Measles, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, and would be arranged on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health. A **list of further infectious diseases information and exclusion details** is located in the office. This chart is taken directly from the Ministry of Health website (last revised March 2016).
  - Public Health Service exclusion guidelines will be followed for any conditions not listed above. They are contactable on (09)623 4600. Public health service or Ministry of Health and local Ministry of Education office (Henderson) will be contacted/notified or any notifiable illness.
  - **Individual health plans** will be written in consultation with parents for children who suffer from Asthma, Epilepsy, specific allergies, or other medical conditions.

- A child prescribed antibiotics for any illness should not return until at least 24 hours after treatment has started or at the centre manager's discretion.
- The Bee Hive excludes any person employed or engaged in the service from coming into contact with children if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the person has an infectious disease or condition.
- If a unwell whānau member (parent/sibling or otherwise) brings a well child to the centre and there is a risk of spreading illness within the centre, a plan can be put in place to support drop offs and pickups
- Any child who becomes unwell during the day (not limited to vomiting, diarrhoea, high temperature, or generally not well ) will be isolated in either sleep room and supervised by a teacher monitoring temperature and recording any observations in illness register or in staff room in outhouse with teacher monitoring, if there are children sleeping in sleep room. All sheets, blankets will be washed in hot soapy water and bed sprayed with 0.5% bleach solution, then rinsed. Parents, caregivers or emergency contact person will be rung at the earliest opportunity.

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