

Balharry Memorial Kindergarten and Rural Care IMMUNISATION POLICY

NQS link: Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

At the **Balharry Memorial Kindergarten and Rural Care centre** we encourage parents to have their children fully immunised. If for cultural or medical reasons a family does not wish to immunise their child/children, the Director will advise the family there is an outbreak of a contagious disease and suggest the parent(s) not bring their child/children to the Centre whilst there is an outbreak. If the parent(s) still wish to bring their child/children, the parent(s) are requested to sign a letter which states the health risks of bringing their child/children to the Centre during this time have been fully explained and the child/children will attend at their own risk.

PROCEDURE

1. Records

On enrolment parents fill in the enrolment form with the correct immunisation details. Parents should inform staff when additional immunisations occur. Every 6 months a reminder will be placed in the newsletter for parents to do this.

The centre will advise parents (via newsletters/ notices/ other communication methods), of any childhood diseases reported, symptoms to look for and the length of time the child/children needs to stay away from the centre if the disease is contracted.

2. Exclusion Period

Parents will keep the child/children with an infectious or potentially infectious disease away from the Centre for an appropriate exclusion period as outlined in 'Staying Healthy in Child Care'. The exclusion period is based on the time the person with a specific disease or condition might be infectious. Some diseases require a medical certificate before the child or adult can be readmitted to the Centre. During the period of the outbreak any child without recorded immunity to the disease will be excluded from care. CCB is payable for these absence days if validated by a medical certificate.

3. Exclusion Period

Children who display symptoms of infectious disease other than the common cold are required to be isolated and removed from the Centre as soon as possible. Staff will make the initial decision regarding this exclusion from care.

4. Staff Immunisation

It is recommended that staff are immunised against the following

- Hepatitis A
- Measles, mumps, rubella
- Chickenpox if they haven't had it or are unsure
- Whooping cough
- Influenza

Staff should discuss their immunisation history with their doctor and have additional immunisations such as influenza and Hepatitis B if advised.

All staff will be required to complete a Health Declaration as part of their employment with DECS.

First Endorsed July 2002, Reviewed July 2005, May 2008, September 2010, September 2011, October 2013

Workers who contract an infectious disease will be excluded from the centre for appropriate exclusion periods.

5. Pregnant Workers/Parents and Infectious Diseases

If there is an outbreak of a contagious disease, pregnant women will be made aware of how some infectious diseases may affect their unborn child. The Director will post relevant information on the door and in newsletters, as soon as possible, after hearing of the outbreak. Workers receive information in their induction folder on diseases that affect pregnant women in the 2002 DECS publication 'Infectious Diseases and Pregnancy'.

6. Notifiable Diseases

The Director will notify public health workers at the South Australian Health Commission in the event of an outbreak of certain diseases e.g. meningococcal disease. See 'Diseases Notifiable under Section 30 of the Public and Environment Health Act 1987' in the front of the 'Staying healthy in Child Care' folder.

If an infection is reported that is not recorded in 'Staying Healthy in Child Care' information should be sought from the Department of Health phone 1300232272

7. Minimising Infection Risk

Staff will keep up to date with health issues and immunisation through training and liaison with agencies e.g. CYH and local Council.

The spread of infectious disease will be minimised by routine procedures including:

- Hand washing
- Disposal of waste
- Thorough cleaning
- Safe food handling and storage
- Use of gloves for blowing children's noses

8. Parent Information

The Centre will promote immunisation to parents by providing immunisation information. The Centre will provide to parents, upon notification, information about common childhood illnesses and specific Centre procedures, including exclusion based on the National Health & Medical Research Council Guidelines as necessary.

For further information refer to "Staying Healthy in Child Care" Department of Health

Sources:

Website – www.immunise.health.gov.au

Staying Healthy in Child Care

You've got what?

Australian Immunisation Handbook

Child Care Service Handbook – DEEWR