



Exclusion of Children and Staff Due to Illness Policy

Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House
Date: Sept 2006
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Explanation:

Child Care is labour-intensive, involving many close physical interactions between children and adults each day. Children are particularly at risk of infection because:

- ◆ they have close contact with a large number of children and adults in closed spaces for long periods of time
- ◆ they have had little previous exposure to many common infectious diseases, and
- ◆ they are continuously being introduced to new children who come with their own set of pathogens.

Sometimes, children and adults need to be away from the Centre for the safety of others. This is called **exclusion**. The exclusion period is the **minimum period** to be away from the Centre. However, a child or member of staff may need to stay at home longer than the exclusion period to recover from an illness. Excluding sick children and adults is one way of limiting the spread of infection in the Centre.

Implementation:

Under the current Child Care Legislation 2003, any child or staff member who appears to be suffering from an infectious illness, disease or condition which may prejudice the health of other children or staff, is to be isolated from the other children and removed from the Centre as soon as possible.

Staying Healthy in Childcare states “ *Directors should not be influenced by letters from doctors which allow the child back into care, unless the child's condition fulfils the criteria for return to care. Sometimes doctors make different diagnoses for children in the same centre with illnesses that appear similar.* “

Therefore if a child is brought back to the Centre with signs and symptoms of an infectious disease, even if they have a certificate from the doctor, we will exclude them from the Centre until they meet the criteria for return to care.

The following list of infectious diseases outlines the minimum guidelines IMCH uses as exclusion periods. This list has been compiled by the Queensland Department of Health.

GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Respiratory Complaints

Condition	Exclusion Period
Bronchiolitis	Exclude during the active stage of the disease or until child is well again...Exclude for a minimum of 24 hours if on antibiotics or has a temperature.
Bronchitis	As above.
Common Cold	Exclude during the active stages of the illness or until child is well again. Antibiotics and temperatures will enforce exclusion for a minimum of 24 hours.
Croup	Exclude during the active stage of the disease. Return when child is feeling well.
Ear infections (otitis)	A child will be excluded while there is any fluid coming out of the ear. Exclude a child unwell / not coping or with a temperature. Exclude for a minimum of 24 hours if on antibiotics.
Influenza	Exclude until well.
Sore throats & Strep throat	Exclude until antibiotics have been taken for at least 24 hours and the symptoms have improved significantly.
Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude until Medical Certificate is produced from appropriate health authority.
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Exclude the child for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment, and only re-include child into Centre when the child is well.

Gastrointestinal Complaints

Disease or Complaint	Exclusion Period
Diarrhoea and Vomiting (Gastroenteritis)	Exclude until Gastro has ceased for 24 hours. After a maximum of two episodes of Diarrhoea, parents will be contacted to collect their child. After a maximum of two episodes of Vomiting, parents will be contacted to collect their child.
Campylobacter / Cryptosporidiosis (Severe Gastroenteritis)	Exclude until diarrhoea / vomiting has ceased for 24 hours.
Giardiasis (Giardia)	Exclude until diarrhoea / vomiting has ceased for 24 hours.
Rotavirus (Mainly affects children under 3 years)	Exclude until diarrhoea / vomiting has ceased for 24 hours.
Salmonella	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased for 24 hours.
Shigella (Children with this infection may become seriously ill and need hospitalisation)	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased for 24 hours.
Worms	No exclusion necessary unless bowel motions are loose.

Skin Complaints

Disease or Complaint	<i>Exclusion Period</i>
Chicken Pox (Varicella)	Children will be excluded for at least 5 days from onset of illness and until all blisters have dried.
Cold Sores (Herpes Simplex)	Exclude until the lesion has stopped weeping. Sores should be covered where possible.
Erythema (also known as Slapped Cheek Syndrome-Fifth disease)	Exclude if child is unwell, not coping or has a temperature.
Fleas	No exclusion necessary.
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried. Spots developing into blisters usually last 7 -10 days.
Head lice (pediculosis capitis)	Exclusion not necessary if effective treatment is commenced prior to next day at childcare.
Measles	Exclude for a minimum of 4 days from the appearance of the rash. Exclude children over 6 months who have not been immunised or have no current immunisation records within the Centre. (See handbook for more details).
Pet bites and scratches	No exclusion necessary, although any wound should be treated seriously.
Ringworm/Tinea	Exclude for 24 hours after treatment has commenced. Proof of treatment is necessary.
Roseola	No exclusion necessary, unless child is unwell.
Rubella (German Measles)	Exclude for a minimum of 4 days after onset of rash and until child appears fully recovered.
Scabies	Exclude for 24 hours after treatment has commenced. Proof of treatment is necessary.
Scarlet Fever (Streptococcal Sore Throat)	Exclude for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has commenced.
School Sores (Impetigo)	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces are to be covered with a watertight dressing. Otherwise children must be excluded until sores have dried.
Thrush	No exclusion necessary.
Warts	No exclusion necessary.

Note: All weeping wounds/sores, which have developed scabs, are to be covered at all times with watertight dressing to avoid infection and blood contamination to others. Once scabs are healed, child can commence play without dressing being applied.

Other Complaints

Disease or Complaint	Exclusion Period
Conjunctivitis	Exclude while there is still discharge from the eyes. Eyes must be clear when child wakes up in the morning for re-admittance to Centre.
Cytomegalovirus	No exclusion necessary.
Haemophilus Influenza type B (HIB)	Exclude until 4 days of course of appropriate antibiotic treatment is completed.
Hepatitis A	Exclude for 7 days after the onset of illness and a Doctor's certificate is provided recommending the exclusion should cease.
Hepatitis B	No exclusion necessary unless unwell.
Hepatitis C	No exclusion necessary unless unwell.
HIV (Human Immuno-deficiency virus) and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)	No exclusion necessary unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Child is unwell: Doctor to decide when return is possible ◆ Child has moist lesions: return once all lesions have dried ◆ Child has significant violent behavioural problems ◆ There is an outbreak of an infectious illness within the Centre.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until antibiotic treatment has been completed.
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until well.
Meningococcal Infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed. Doctor's certificate is required for re-admittance into care.
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days after the onset of swelling or until all swelling goes down.
Toxoplasmosis	No exclusion necessary.
Glandular Fever	No exclusion necessary.

For more information see:

www.health.qld.gov.au/infectioncontrol

Sources:

Early Years Training Group

Staying Healthy in Childcare, 4th Ed. 2005

Office of Childcare Exclusion Guidelines.

A Practical Guide to Working with Children – Egle, 2006