



Infectious Diseases

Reference:

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 78-80
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Public Health Regulation 2012 and commenced, along with Public Health Act 2010
Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Bill 2013
Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code (FSANZ)
National Quality Standards 2.1,2.3 6.2, 6.3

Introduction

Jannali Preschool is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff and any other persons attending the service by:

- Responding to the needs of the child or adult who presents with symptoms of an infectious disease or infestation while attending the service.
- Complying with current exclusion schedules and guidelines set by the Department of Health.
- Providing up-to-date information and resources for families and staff regarding protection of all children from infectious diseases and blood-borne viruses, management of infestations and immunisation programs.

Goals

The way that children interact with each other and with adults in education and care services means that diseases can quickly spread in a variety of ways. Whilst it is not possible to prevent the spread of all infections and diseases, minimising the risk is enhanced through:

- Effective hand hygiene.
- Exclusion of ill children, educators and other staff.
- Immunisation.

(Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition 2012)

Strategies:

Effective Hygiene

Jannali Preschool will maintain and promote effective hygiene practices, including:

- Correct hand washing technique.
- Using standard precautions when handling blood, all body fluids, secretions and excretions, dried blood and other body substances.
- Cleaning toys and other items that children are likely to put in their mouths, after use.



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- Raking sandpits daily and/or securely covering them when not in use.
- Disposing of soiled items in a container that is inaccessible to children.
- Washing rubbish bins regularly.
- Actively promote hand washing and other hygiene practices with children and families.

Exclusion of Ill Children, Educators and Staff

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In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through interpersonal contact, Jannali Preschool will adhere to the exclusion period table, published by the Department of Health:

www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch43poster4.pdf

The Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person must notify the local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 as soon as possible after being made aware that a child is suffering from one of the following vaccine preventable diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Mumps
- Poliomyelitis
- Haemophilus influenza Type b (Hib)
- Meningococcal disease
- Rubella (i.e. German Measles)
- Measles
- Pertussis (i.e. whooping cough)
- Tetanus

Infectious diseases that require a medical clearance before a child may return to preschool include, but is not limited to:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| • An unknown persistent rash | • Leprosy |
| • Chicken pox | • Measles |
| • Conjunctivitis (if discharging from eyes) | • Meningococcal |
| • Diarrhoea (if persisted for more than 48hrs) | • Mumps |
| • Diphtheria | • Norovirus |
| • Hand, Foot and Mouth | • Pertussis (Whooping Cough) |
| • Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib) | • Poliomyelitis |
| • Hepatitis A | • Rubella (German Measles) |
| • Impetigo | • Tetanus |



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Note: Jannali Preschool reserves the right to request a medical clearance on any illness that supports prevention or a possible outbreak of an illness.

According to the PHU a gastroenteritis outbreak is defined as having two or more persons suffering with diarrhoea and/or vomiting, occurring within a 24 hour period, which cannot be attributed to a known cause (e.g. existing medical condition or through the use of medications). The Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person must report the possible outbreak to the local PHU immediately on 1300 066 055.

Fever

In children, a temperature over 38°C indicates a fever. A fever is usually caused by an infection somewhere in the body. Some types of infections that lead to fever include:

- Viral (caused by a virus) – around nine out of ten children with a fever will have a viral illness, such as cold, flu or gastroenteritis.
- Bacterial (caused by bacteria) – such as some ear infections, pneumonia or urine infections.

www.health.vic.gov.au/edfactsheets/downloads/fever-in-children.pdf

In order to prevent the spread of infection and ensure wellbeing, children with a temperature above 38°C will be excluded from the service. A 24 hour clearance is required if your child has experienced a temperature of 38°C or above.

Immunisation

The NSW Government Immunisation Toolkit for early childhood education and care services guides our practice and provides resources and information to support family's access information regarding immunisation.

Under the Public Health Act 2010, education and care services cannot enroll a child unless approved documentation has been provided that shows the child:

- Is fully vaccinated for their age, or;
- Has a medical reason not to be vaccinated, or;
- Has a parent/guardian who has a conscientious objection to vaccination or;
- Is on a recognised catch-up schedule if the child has fallen behind with their vaccinations.



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To enroll in our service, families must provide a copy of one or more of the following documents:

- ACIR Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations; or
- Medicare Immunisation History Form (IMMU13)** on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule; or
- Medicare Immunisation Exemption - Medical Contraindication Form (IMMU11)** which has been certified by an immunisation provider, or;
- Medicare Immunisation Exemption Conscientious Objection Form (IMMU12)** which has been certified by an immunisation provider and a parent.

Immunisation Exempt children

Non-immunised children will be added to the service Non-Immunised Register.

When a vaccine-preventable disease is present or suspected at the service, children for whom the centre does not have a completed immunisation record will be treated as unimmunised.

Non-immune children and Educators will be excluded from the service when there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable illness and required to remain away until the service is deemed clear of the illness and the minimum exclusion period has passed.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Approved Provider will:

Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011 including:

- Ensuring that where there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service, reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of that infectious disease (Regulation 88 (1)).
- Ensuring that where there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service, a parent/guardian or authorised emergency contact of each child at the service is notified of the occurrence as soon as is practicable (Regulation 88(2)).
- Ensuring that information from the Department of Health about the recommended minimum exclusion periods is displayed at the service is available to all stakeholders and is adhered to in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease.



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- Ensuring that the parent/guardian are informed within 24 hours of becoming aware that an enrolled child is suffering from:
 - a) Pertussis, or
 - b) Poliomyelitis, or
 - c) Measles,
 - d) Mumps, or
 - e) Rubella, or
 - f) Meningococcal C,
- Ensuring that a child who is not immunised against a vaccine-preventable disease does not attend the service when an infectious disease is diagnosed, and does not return until there are no more occurrences of that disease at the service and the recommended minimum exclusion period has ceased (Regulation 85(2) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009).
- Notifying the Regulatory Authority within 24 hours of a serious incident including when a child becomes ill at the service or urgent medical attention is sought while the child is attending the service.
- Ensuring that appropriate and current information and resources are provided to staff and parents/guardians regarding the identification and management of infectious diseases, blood-borne viruses and infestations.
- Keeping informed about current legislation, information, research and best practice.
- Ensuring that any changes to the exclusion table or immunisation schedule are communicated to staff and parents/guardians in a timely manner.

The Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person will:

- Contact the parents/guardians of a child suspected of suffering from an infectious or vaccine-preventable disease, or of a child not immunised against a vaccine preventable disease that has been detected at the service, and requesting the child be collected as soon as possible.
- Notify a parent/guardian or authorised emergency contact person when a symptom of an excludable infectious illness or disease has been observed.
- Ensure that a minimum of one staff with current approved first aid qualifications is in attendance and immediately available at all times the service is in operation.
- Establish good hygiene and infection control procedures, and ensuring that they are adhered to by everyone at the service.
- Ensure the exclusion requirements for infectious diseases are adhered to as per the recommended minimum exclusion periods notifying the Approved Provider and parents/guardians of any outbreak



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of infectious disease at the service, and displaying the Infection Disease Notice in a prominent position.

- Advise parents/guardians on enrolment that the recommended minimum exclusion periods will be observed in regard to the outbreak of any infectious diseases or infestations.
- Advise the parents/guardians of a child who is not fully immunised on enrolment that they will be required to keep their child at home when an infectious disease is diagnosed at the service, and until there are no more occurrences of that disease and the exclusion period has ceased.
- Request that parents/guardians notify the service if their child has, or is suspected of having, an infectious disease or infestation.
- Provide information and resources to families to assist in the identification and management of infectious diseases and infestations.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times.
- Provide relevant sourced materials to families.
- Ensure that the Unwell Child Record is completed as soon as practicable but not later than 24 hours of the illness occurring.
- In the case of an outbreak of an illness:
 - ensure that the Outbreak Investigation Record for Staff and/or Children is completed.
 - Notify the local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 as soon as possible after being made aware that a child is suffering from one of the vaccine preventable diseases listed on page 2 of this policy.
 - Notify the Public Health Unit urgently if there is a sudden increase in individuals with vomiting or diarrhoea or are aware of any hospitalisation or deaths related to gastroenteritis. Importantly, staff with gastroenteritis symptoms should be excluded from work until 48 hours have elapsed since the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. Children should be excluded until 24 hours have elapsed since the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. A gastroenteritis outbreak can be declared over if there are no other further occurrences of vomiting or diarrhoea for 48 hours after the last episode.

The Educator will:

- Ensure that any children that are suspected of having an infectious illness are responded to and their health and emotional needs supported at all times.
- Implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when tending to ill children.
- Ensure that families are aware of the need to collect their children as soon as practicable to ensure the child's comfort.
- Maintain their own immunisation status, and advise the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor of any updates to their immunisation status.
- Provide varied opportunities for children to engage in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice.



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- Observe signs and symptoms of children who may appear unwell, inform the Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person and complete the Unwell Child Record.
- Provide access to information and resources for parents/guardians to assist in the identification and management of infectious diseases and infestations.
- Monitor any symptoms in children that may indicate the presence of an infectious disease.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times.

The Families will:

- Provide Immunisation documentation upon enrolment and as administered.
- Keep their children at home if they are unwell or have an excludable infectious disease.
- Keep their children at home when an infectious disease has been diagnosed at the service and their child is not fully immunised against that infectious disease, until there are no more occurrences of that disease and the exclusion period has ceased.
- Inform the service if their child has an infectious disease or has been in contact with a person who has an infectious disease.

Evaluation

In accordance with R. 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service; a family's ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

Resources/Useful Links

Immunisation Toolkit

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Documents/Immunisation-Enrolment-Toolkit.pdf>ff NSW

Immunisation Schedule July 2013

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Documents/nsw_schedule_july_13.pdf

Vaccination Q&A

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/provider_qa.aspx

Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition 2012

Exclusion period for infectious diseases table:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>



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Links to Other Policies/Documentation:

- High Temperature Procedure
- Unwell Child Record
- Illness Outbreak Record for Staff
- Illness Outbreak Record for Children
- Infectious Disease Notification Form
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Administration of First Aid and Medication Policy
- Cleaning and Hygiene Policy