

# DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## POLICY

REED is committed to minimise the spread of infectious diseases and viruses by implementing recommendations as stated in the Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services guide to maintain a healthy environment for all children, staff, educators and families.

### PURPOSE

Infectious diseases can spread rapidly in education and care services. It is for this reason that it is especially important for our service to have effective policies and procedures in place that can promote awareness of infectious diseases and safe hygiene practices, that help to prevent any infectious disease from occurring and outline the processes to manage any outbreak.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, nominated supervisors, educators, staff, volunteers, visitors and families.

### EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS (WA)

S 172	Offence to fail to display prescribed information	R 90	Medical conditions policy
S 174	Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority	R 103	Premises, furniture, and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair
R 85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures	R 162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
R 86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma, and illness	R 168	Education and care must have policies and procedures
R 87	Incident, injury, trauma, and illness record	R 173	Prescribed information to be displayed
R 88	Infectious diseases	R 175	Prescribed information to be notified to Regulatory Authority

### DEFINITIONS

**Exclusion period:** Families keeping their children at home in the event of illness or disease within the service.

**Immunisation:** Immunisation can prevent some infections. It works by giving a person a vaccine – often a dead or modified version of the germ – against a particular disease. This makes the person's

immune system respond in a similar way to how it would respond if they had the disease, but with less severe symptoms. If the person encounters that germ in the future, their immune system can rapidly respond and prevent the person becoming ill. For families to receive the Child Care Subsidy and Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A, their child must meet the immunisation requirements. Jurisdictional requirements may also prevent children who are not immunised from attending a service.

**Infectious disease:** A disease that is designated under a law of a relevant jurisdiction or by a health authority as a disease that would require a person with the disease to be excluded from an education and care service.

**Reportable Outbreaks:** The Public Health Act 2010 lawfully requires and authorises doctors, hospitals, laboratories, school principals and childcare centre directors to confidentially notify the Public Health Unit (PHU) of patients with certain conditions, and to provide the required information on the notification forms.

A comprehensive list can be found at: [https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N\\_R/Notification-of-infectious-diseases-and-related-conditions](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Notification-of-infectious-diseases-and-related-conditions)

#### THE APPROVED PROVIDER WILL ENSURE:

- That obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations are met
- That all information regarding the prevention and transmission of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised Government Health authority Australian Government Department of Health
- Exclusion periods for people with infectious diseases recommended by Government Authorities are included in policies and procedures
- Required enrolment information, including health and immunisation records of enrolled children is collected, maintained and appropriately and securely stored

#### NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL ENSURE:

- Training is provided to educators and staff in relation to the *Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy*
- The *Dealing with Infectious Disease Policy* and procedure are implemented
- A hygienic environment is promoted and maintained at the service

- All legislative reporting requirements are met for the public health authority and the regulatory authority
- A notice is displayed stating that there has been an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service premises
- The Service implements recommendations from [Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services](#) and provides families with Information or factsheets related to the disease/infection and the necessary precautions/exclusions required
- As soon as practical, ensure families are notified of a confirmed infectious disease within the service and advised to keep children at home if they are unwell.
- Ensure pregnant women and immune compromised educators are aware of the occupational risks and exposure to specific infectious diseases outbreaks

#### EDUCATORS AND OTHER STAFF WILL:

- Participate in training as required in relation to the *Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy*
- Advise families that they must alert the Service if their child is diagnosed with an infectious illness
- Ensure the *Dealing with Infectious Disease Policy and procedure are implemented* at the service
- Monitor children's health, safety and wellbeing on a daily basis and manage accordingly
- Complete a record of illness if a child becomes unwell at the service
- Ensure a hygienic environment is promoted and maintained and implement prevention strategies
- Ensure a notice is displayed stating that there has been an occurrence of an infectious disease at the service premises
- Ensure children are supported in their understanding of health and hygiene practices throughout the daily program and routine (hand washing, hand drying, cough and sneeze etiquette)
- Stay at home if unwell or have an excludable infectious disease
- Role model and implement effective hygiene practices for cleaning hands, nappy changing, toileting and food handling
- Conduct a deep clean of the service when a suspected or confirmed infectious disease is present at the service

## FAMILIES WILL:

- Follow the service's Dealing with infectious diseases policy and procedures and adhere to the Service's risk minimisation strategies
- Inform the service if their child has an infectious disease
- Provide immunisation documentation upon enrolment and as immunisations are administered
- Keep their child at home if they are unwell or have an excludable infectious disease
- Keep their child at home if there is an infectious disease at the service and their child is not fully immunised against it or has a complex medical condition that could compromise their safety

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

RESOURCES	PROCEDURES
Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services	Dealing with Infectious Diseases Procedure
1Place Illness Record	Incident Recording and Reporting Procedure
Illness and Infectious Disease Register	Handwashing Procedure
Disease Outbreak Notification Form	Indoor Cleaning Procedure

## SOURCE

Education and Care National Law and Regulations 2012  
 ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines. Dealing with Infectious Diseases.  
 ACECQA – Guide to the National Quality Framework  
 Government of Western Australia, Department of Health – Public Health Act 2016  
 Australian Government – Immunisation requirements - [servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/topics/what-areimmunisation-requirements/35396](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/topics/what-areimmunisation-requirements/35396)  
 Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council and advice provided from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

## REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	MODIFICATIONS	NEXT PLANNED REVIEW DATE
July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modification of template</li> <li>• Revision of content (succinct and explicit)</li> </ul>	July 2027