

	<p>Policy Category: HEALTH AND SAFETY</p>
	<p>Policy Name: Infectious Disease Exclusion Policy</p>

Purpose

The purpose of this operational policy is to keep children and adults safe and healthy by detailing the circumstances when a child or adult with an infectious condition is to be isolated or excluded from the centre, as per Regulation 57 of the Education (Early Childhood Education) Regulations 2008 and Licensing Criteria **HS26**.

As COVID-19 is an active and ongoing pandemic that requires timely information in response to a highly dynamic situation, COVID-19 is outside the scope of this policy. The New Zealand COVID-19 Protection Framework and public health measures continue to apply:

<https://temahau.govt.nz/covid-19/advice-early-learning-services/covid-19-protection-framework-early-learning-services>

Position Statement

At this centre we take every precaution to prevent the transmission of infection to other children or adults. We achieve this by taking a responsible view of children and adults who are identified with infectious conditions and isolating or excluding them as required. This policy assumes that these individuals have sought appropriate medical advice and treatment.

Issue Outline

Both children and adults can get sick quite suddenly or can be unwell on arrival at the centre. Some illnesses are more infectious than others. Childcare centres are places where there is a concentration of children and adults and where infectious disease can spread easily to all. A list of infectious and notifiable diseases is contained in Appendix 2 of the Licensing Criteria. HIV is not listed by the Ministry of Education as an infectious disease. The Human Rights Act 1993 does not allow exclusion of a child because of HIV/AIDS.

Detail

Enrolment Procedures

Our enrolment forms ask for sharing of information about chronic conditions and illnesses and for any information about appropriate care. Parents do not have to inform early childhood centres that their child has HIV.

As part of our enrolment procedure parents are required to provide a copy of the child's immunisation record.

- Parents are informed that immunisation is not a condition for enrolment but the centre must know if a child may be at risk when exposed to certain illnesses.
- Parents are informed that, if required, their child may be isolated if the child shows signs of a contagious disease whilst at the centre. Parents are also informed that their child will be excluded from attending the centre until such time there is no risk of infection to others and the child is fully recovered.

Personal information about a child or family will not be communicated in any way to other children, families, or to anyone else without permission (Privacy Act 2020).

Child Illness:

- Sick children with infectious or communicable diseases are isolated to stop the spread of infection. Parents are asked to collect them as soon as possible.
- Any notifiable diseases are notified to the Ministry of Health.
- Staff and parents are informed of health warnings and how to recognise signs of any illnesses for which we receive Ministry of Health notifications (eg COVID-19).
- In the event of an outbreak of a contagious illness (eg measles) at the centre, we will inform parents of those children who may be at increased risk of contracting the disease. (Licensing Criteria **HS26**: If an illness is infectious, contact the parents or caregivers of children with low immunity.)

Staff illness:

- Staff with infectious or communicable illnesses must take sick leave or other leave.

When should ill children or children causing concern stay away?

In general children should stay away from an early childhood service when:

- They have no interest in activities or play
- have little energy, want or need to sleep or rest for long periods
- cry easily, are irritable or in pain
- constantly want to be held and comforted
- have a fever
- any child with diarrhea or vomiting should stay away until 48 hours after symptoms cease and they are well.

Alignment with Other Policies

Related criteria:

- **HS30**: Children are washed when they are soiled or pose a health risk to themselves or others.

The Ministry of Health's website www.moh.govt.nz has a resource called *Nga Kupu Oranga: Healthy Messages*. It is a health and safety resource for early childhood services and is available to download.

The relevant sections are as follows;

- Section B: Preventing Infectious Illness 10
- B1 Spreading infectious illness 10
- B2 Strategies for early childhood services 11
- B3 Exclusion 13
- B4 Immunisation 18
- B5 Hygiene 19
- B6 Cleaning and disinfecting 22

The Ministry of Health's website has information about preventing infectious diseases: <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/immunisation-about>.

Communicable diseases in early learning services:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/student-and-staff-health/communicable-diseases-in-early-learning-services-and-schools-a-guide-to-legal-powers/>

Relevant Background (including legislation/regulation references)

Licensing Criteria 2008, Health and Safety, Child Health and Well-Being:

- **HS26:** All practicable steps are taken to ensure that children do not come into contact with any person (adult or child) on the premises who is suffering from a disease or condition likely to be passed on to children and likely to have a detrimental effect on them. Specifically:
 - The action specified in appendix 2 is taken for any person (adult or child) suffering from particular infectious diseases; and
 - Children who become unwell while attending the service are kept at a safe distance from other children (to minimise the spread of infection) and returned to the care of a parent or other person authorised to collect the child without delay.

Impacts of Policy on Staff, Parents, Children

Following these procedures will ensure that the environment is safe, that parents and appropriate authorities are kept informed of accidents and illnesses where appropriate, and that appropriate records are kept to meet licensing and other legislative requirements.

Alignment with the Centre Philosophy

This policy ensures a safe environment, a crucial part of creating and maintaining the well-being of children in our care.

Implications and/or Risks

- Staff member's condition becomes worse.
- Children or adults are infected.
- Children, other staff or the image of the centre is at risk.
- Reputational risk to the centre.

Implementation

Clear procedures have been developed and staff trained to follow them.

The records of training and medicine registers are kept in the overhead cabinet in the kitchen.

Review

Review annually or when there is a significant change in the area of the policy topic.

Authorised by licensed service:	Greendale Kids Preschool Greendale Kids Nursery
Date:	24 April 2025
Review Date:	September 2026
Parents informed:	April 2025