

The spread of infections in the early childhood environment is facilitated by crowding and microbial contamination of the environment, as well as the unhygienic behaviours and greater exposure of young children. Brunswick Crèche & Day Nursery will minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases by adhering to all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases, promoting practices that reduce the transmission of infection, ensuring the exclusion of sick children and educators, supporting child immunisation and implement effective hygiene practices.

Children encounter many other children and adults within the Service environment, which can result in the contracting of infectious illnesses. Our centre has a duty of care to ensure that children families, educators and visitors of the centre are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the centre's operation. We aim to manage illnesses and prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout the centre. Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others within the community, by reducing the spread of disease and illnesses.

New Immunisation Requirements

- Only parents of children (less than 20 years of age) who are fully immunised or are on a recognised catch-up schedule can receive the Child Care Subsidy the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement.
- The relevant vaccinations are those under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), which covers the vaccines usually administered before age five. These vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).
- Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases will continue to be exempt from the requirements.
- Conscientious objection and vaccination objection on non-medical grounds will no longer be a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.
- Families eligible to receive family assistance payments and have children less than 20 years of age, who may not meet the new immunisation requirements, will be notified by Centrelink. (The ACIR was expanded. From 1 January 2016, you will be able to submit the details of vaccinations given to persons less than 20 years of age to the ACIR)

Management will ensure:

- That all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority;
- The implementation the recommendations from Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing the spread of infectious diseases in the Early Childhood Environment.
- That children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the centre
- To collect, maintain, and store appropriately the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children in the centre.

A Nominated Supervisor/ Certified Supervisor will ensure:

- A hygienic environment is maintained;
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Schedule are completed daily and signed by the Educator
- Children are directed in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine
- Educators and Staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves;
- Information is collected on enrolment and maintained regarding each child's immunisation status, and any medical conditions;



- To provide families with relevant sourced materials and information on infectious diseases, health and hygiene including:
 - The current VIC Immunisation Schedule for children;
 - Exclusion guidelines in the event of an infectious illness at the centre for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all of their immunisations;
 - Advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any specific infectious illnesses that are suspected/present in the centre;
- To provide information to families about an infectious disease by displaying and emailing the Infectious Diseases Information Sheet.
- All educators are mindful and preserve confidentiality of individual children’s medical circumstances
- Children’s enrolment records are updated with regards to immunisation as required, (i.e. as children reach age milestones for immunisation), or at least twice a year;
- Advise staff of the recommended immunisations for people working with children;
- To retain current records of staff immunisation status and ensure educators are familiar with procedures for exclusion of educators as well as children in the event of an infectious illness
- To provide opportunities for educators to source pertinent up to date information on the prevention of infectious diseases, and maintaining health and hygiene from trusted sources;
- To notify and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required;
- To provide opportunities for staff, children and families to have access to health professionals by organising visits/guest speakers to attend the centre to confirm best practice.
- Children do not attend the Centre if they are unwell. If a child has been sick they must be well for 24Hrs (48 Hrs for Gastro Symptoms) before returning to the centre. For example, if a child is absent due to illness or is sent home due to illness they will be unable to attend the next day as a minimum. The Nominated Supervisor may approve the child’s return to the centre, if families provide a doctor’s certificate/clearance outlining the child is no longer contagious and in full health.
- Cloths are colour coded so that a separate cloth is used for floors, bathroom, art and craft and meal surfaces.
- Toys and equipment that are absorbent and hard to clean will be aired in sunlight
- Washable toys and equipment will be washed in detergent and hot water or the dishwasher and aired to dry. All toys and equipment that have been cleaned will be recorded on the toy cleaning register.
- All cleaning procedures will be recorded on the “Cleaning and Disinfecting Checklist”.
- Floor surfaces are to be cleaned on a daily basis after each meal and at the end of each day
- Toilets/bathrooms are to be cleaned in the middle of the day, the end of the day and whenever needed throughout the day using disinfectant and paper towel.
- Disposable paper towel and disinfectant are used to clean bodily fluids off beds, floors, bathrooms, etc.

Educators will ensure:

- That any child suspected of having an infectious illness are responded to and their health and emotional needs supported at all times
- To implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when treating ill children
- Advise families that they will need to alert the centre if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness;
- To maintain their own immunisation status, and advise the Nominated Supervisor of any updates to their immunisation status;
- To provide diverse opportunities for children to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice;
- To take into consideration the combination of children to decrease the risk of attaining an infectious illness when planning the routines/program of the day;
- To adhere to the centre health and hygiene policy including:
 - Hand washing
 - Daily cleaning of the centre;
 - Wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids);
 - Appropriate handling and preparation of food.



- Maintain up to date knowledge with respect to Health and Safety through on going professional development opportunities.
- Children will rest 'head to toe' to avoid cross infection while resting or asleep
- Children are not to share beds at the same time
- Paper Towel and disinfectant is used to clean the beds after each use
- Any toy that is mouthed by a child is to be placed immediately in the "Toys to washed" basket, and washed with warm soapy water at the end of the day. All washable toys out on display for the children are to be washed on a weekly basis in order to decrease the risk of cross contamination.
- All play dough is to be made fresh every week. If there is an outbreak of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, or any other contagious communicable disease play dough is to be discarded at the end of each day and a new batch made during this time. Children are to wash their hands before and after using the play dough
- Mops used for toilet accidents are to be soaked in disinfectant in a bucket in the laundry sink
- If a child has a toileting accident, the items will be placed in a plastic bag with the child's name on it. The plastic bag will be stored in a sealed container labelled 'soiled/wet clothing' for parents to take home. .

Families will:

- Advise the centre of their child's immunisation status, by providing written documentation of for the centre to copy and place in the child's file.
- Advise the Centre when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated and provide this information to the Centre to ensure that enrolment records are up to date.
- Provide sufficient spare clothing, particularly if your child is toilet training

Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

National Health and Medical Research Council.
Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition

Children who are unwell should not attend the centre.

Definition of 'Contacts' will vary according to disease. Please refer to specific Fact Sheets for definition of 'Contacts'.

Centre Rulings

Infections / Diseases	Exclusion
Respiratory tract infections (colds, influenza, otitis media, bronchitis).	Child to be excluded from the Centre if temperature is >38C or the child is unable to cope in a group situation.
Herpes simplex (cold sores)	The child is to be excluded from the Centre during the wet stage of the infection.
Coxsackie virus (specific hand, foot and mouth disease)	Child is to be excluded until all blisters have dried and a medical certificate is produced.
Oral candidiasis (thrush)	Child is to be excluded until 48 hours following commencement of appropriate medication.
Vomiting	A child shall be excluded until vomiting has ceased for 48 hours and the child is able to cope with normal group interaction.
Genital thrush	Child to be excluded from the Centre until appropriate treatment has been commenced.



Health Department Rulings

Disease/Condition	Exclusion of Cases	Exclusion of Contacts
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded.
Campylobacter	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded.
Candidiasis	(See 'Thrush')	
Chickenpox (Varicella)	Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in unimmunised children and less in immunised children.	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded.
Conjunctivitis (Acute Infection)	Until discharge from eyes has ceased.	Not excluded.
CMV (Cytomegalovirus infection)	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Cryptosporidium infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded.
Diarrhea (No organism identified)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours.	Not excluded.
Diphtheria	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least 2 negative throat swabs, the first swab not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics followed by another swab 48 hours later.	Exclude contacts that live in the same house until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority.
German measles	(See 'Rubella')	
Giardiasis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded.
Glandular fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried	Not excluded
Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)	Exclude until the individual has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days.	Not excluded.
Head lice (Pediculosis)	Exclusion is NOT necessary if effective treatment is commenced prior to the next day at child care (i.e. the child doesn't need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected).	Not excluded.
Hepatitis (Infectious Hepatitis)	Until receipt of a medical certificate of recovery from infection, or on subsidence of symptoms.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before seven days after the onset of jaundice.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis B	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.



Hepatitis C	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)	Exclusion is not necessary if the individual is developmentally capable of maintaining hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission. If the individual is unable to comply with these practices they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered by a dressing where possible.	Not excluded.
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)	Exclusion is NOT necessary. If the individual is severely immunocompromised, they will be vulnerable to other individual's illnesses.	Not excluded.
Hydatid disease	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Impetigo (school sores)	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced. Until sores have fully healed. The child may be allowed to return earlier provided that appropriate treatment has commenced and that sores on exposed surfaces such as scalp, face, hands or legs are properly covered with watertight dressing.	Not excluded.
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until well.	Not excluded.
Legionnaires' disease	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority	Not excluded.
Measles	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash. Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded.	Non-immunised contacts of a case are to be excluded from child care until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case, unless immunised within 72 hours of first contact during the infectious period with the first case. All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until well and has received appropriate antibiotics.	Not excluded.
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until well.	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed.	Not excluded.
Molluscum contagiosum	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Mumps	Exclude for nine days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).	Not excluded.
Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours.	Not excluded.



Parvovirus infection (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome).	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Pediculosis (Head Lice)	Until appropriate treatment has been commenced.	Not excluded.
Pertussis	(See 'Whooping Cough')	
Poliomyelitis	Until at least 14 days after onset of illness and until receipt of a medical certificate of recovery from infection.	Not excluded.
Respiratory Syncytial virus	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Ringworm/tinea	Exclude until the day after appropriate antifungal treatment has commenced.	Not excluded.
Roseola	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Ross River virus	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Rotavirus infection	Children are to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours.	Not excluded.
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of the rash.	Not excluded.
Salmonella infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded.
Scabies	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.	Not excluded.
Scarlet fever	(See 'Streptococcal sore throat')	Not excluded.
School sores	(See 'Impetigo')	Not excluded.
Shigella infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded.
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the individual has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well.	Not excluded.
Thrush (candidiasis)	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Toxoplasmosis	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.
Trachoma	Until appropriate treatment has commenced.	Not excluded.
Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from an appropriate health authority	Not excluded.
Typhoid, Paratyphoid	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from appropriate health authority Contacts - Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities	Not excluded.
Varicella	(See 'Chickenpox')	Not excluded.
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhea)	Children are to be excluded until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours.	48 Hours
Warts	Exclusion is NOT necessary.	Not excluded.



Whooping cough (pertussis)	Exclude until five days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment or for 21 days from the onset of coughing.	Contacts that live in the same house as the case and have received less than three doses of pertussis vaccine are to be excluded from the centre until they have had 5 days of an appropriate course of antibiotics. If antibiotics have not been taken, these contacts must be excluded for 21 days after their last exposure to the case while the individual was infectious.
Worms	Exclude if loose bowel motions present	Not excluded.

Reference: www.immunise.health.gov.au

Source: Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard, Department of Health And Aging, National Immunisation Program Schedule, NHMRC. Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing Infectious diseases in child care 5th edition, Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

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National Quality Standard – NQS		
Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety		
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child’s wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child’s needs for sleep, rest and relaxation
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
Education and Care Service National Regulations		
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices	
85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures	
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness	
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record	
88	Infectious diseases	
90	Medical conditions policy	
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record	

