



Infectious Diseases and Sick Children

BACKGROUND

Stepping Stones Child Care Centre recognises that childhood illnesses are common and generally not serious. In an effort to prevent the spread of infectious diseases at Stepping Stones Child Care Centre, we have adopted the following exclusion periods from Australian Government Guidelines.

Attending to sick children can require extra staff time and attention, and when the staff to children ratio is compromised, parents will be asked to collect their child during the day and not return until well.

This Policy is also based on Public Health Legislation and recommendations from the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support (ACT) and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Victoria), and implemented to protect children and staff from the spread of infection and illness as decided by the Centre Director of Stepping Stones Child Care Centre.

POLICY

- Stepping Stones Child Care Centre will attend to children who become unwell during their day, we will comfort these children and notify parents/guardian.
- Parents/Guardians are asked not to leave their child at Stepping Stones Child Care Centre if they are unwell and/or will not be able to participate in the day's activities. If a child is unwell and needs to be collected from the centre, this is at the Centre Directors discretion.
- Children with infectious diseases currently within the exclusion periods will not be allowed to attend Stepping Stones Child Care Centre (see exclusion periods for infectious conditions below).
- Parents/Guardians of children who are not immunised against an infectious disease will be notified immediately, and advised of symptoms to be aware of, and advised to exclude the child in the event of the disease being present at the Centre under the guidance of the Health Department.
- Families at Stepping Stones Child Care Centre will be emailed if there are cases of an infectious disease, and a notice will be placed on the front door.
- In the event a child has a temperature of 38.0 degrees or higher, parents will be contacted for consent to administer Children's Panadol. It is at the Centre Directors discretion as to if the child will be required to be collected from care immediately.
- To reduce the chance of a spread of illness such as gastroenteritis, a child who has vomited or had two cases of diarrhoea will be sent home from the Centre. The child will not be able to attend care for at least 24 hours after the vomiting and or diarrhoea has ceased. If a child returns to care and vomits or has one case of diarrhoea the child will be sent home from the Centre, and the 24 hour exclusion period will re-commence.
- If a child develops a rash during care, the family will be contacted and the child will be sent home from the Centre. The child can return to the Centre either when the

rash has disappeared or when a note has been provided by a Doctor stating that the rash is not infectious.

- Children will be excluded from the Centre for a period of 24 hours from the start of anti-biotics, to allow for recovery, with the exception of a certificate from a Doctor stating that the child is on antibiotics and is well enough to return to care.
- Open wounds or sores must have a waterproof bandage over them so no access can be made to it by other children or staff. If any bodily fluids are leaking from underneath the bandage, the children will have to be collected from the Centre and seen by a Doctor.

Notifiable Diseases Procedure:

In the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease being present at the Centre or multiple cases of diarrhoea, influenza etc the following procedure must be followed when reporting to ACT Health or Victorian Health Department:

1. Parent/Guardian of child with infectious diseases is to notify Centre Director immediately.
2. Centre Director to notify ACT Health Communicable Diseases on (02) 6205 2155 or Communicable Disease Prevention and Control (Public Health Branch) Victoria on 1300 651 160.
3. Centre Director to following procedures recommended by ACT Health Communicable Diseases or Communicable Disease Prevention and Control (Public Health Branch) Victoria.
4. Centre Director to notify families via email and sign on front door.
5. Centre Director to notify families with children who are not immunised against the disease, and exclude under direction from the Health Department.
6. Families to follow exclusion periods for children and contacts with the infectious disease.

Recommended Minimum Exclusion Periods for infectious conditions for Stepping Stones Child Care Centre.

Condition	Exclusion of Case	Exclusion of Contacts
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased	Not excluded
Campylobacter	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased	Not excluded
Candidiasis	See 'Thrush'	
Chickenpox (Varicella)	Exclude for at least 5 days after the rash first appears AND all the blisters are dry AND the person is systemically well.	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded.
CMV (Cytomegalovirus infection)	Exclusion is NOT necessary. Pregnant women to be advised.	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased, unless Doctor has diagnosed a non-infectious conjunctivitis, and a Medical Certificate Clearance is required.	Not excluded
Cryptosporidium infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded
Diarrhoea (No organism identified)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded
Diphtheria	Exclude until: (a) At least two negative throat swabs have been taken (the first not less than 24 hours after cessation of antibiotic treatment and the second not less than 48 hours later) and (b) A certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease.	Exclude family and household contacts until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer/Secretary.
German Measles	See 'Rubella'	
Giardiasis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowl 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 Influenza type B (Hib)	Exclude until a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease.	Not excluded
Head Lice	A child with head lice must be excluded until 24 hours after infestation or suspected infestation has been treated.	Not excluded
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before seven days after the onset of jaundice or illness	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 person is developmentally capable of maintaining hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission. If the person is unable to comply with these practices they should be excluded	Not excluded
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)	Exclusion is NOT necessary. If the person is severely immunocompromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses.	Not excluded
Hydatid Disease	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded

Impetigo (school sores)	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a 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 (9) 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, Spalled Check Syndrome)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Pertussis	See 'Whooping Cough'	
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Ringworm/Tinea	Excluded 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 24 hours	Not excluded
Rubella (German Measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four (4) days after the onset of the rash. Pregnant women to be advised.	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'	
School Sores	See 'Impetigo'	

Shigella Infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowl motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Streptococcal Infection (including Scarlet Fever)	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and they feel well.	Not excluded
Thrush (Candidiasis)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Toxoplasmosis	Exclusion is not necessary	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 an appropriate Health Authority	Not excluded unless considered necessary by Public Health Authorities
Varicella	See 'Chickenpox'	
Viral Gastroenteritis (Viral Diarrhoea)	Children are to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowl motion or vomiting for 24 hours	Not excluded
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 whilst the person was infectious.
Worms	Exclude if loose bowel motions present	Not excluded

Source:

- Staying Healthy in Childcare, Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care, 4th Edition.
- National Child Care Accreditation Council, Quality Practices Guide, First Edition 2005.
- ACT Health – Communicable Diseases. Phone 6205 2155

This policy links to the following CCQA Principles:

Quality Practices Guide (2005) - Principle 5.3, 6.3 & 6.6

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