



Dara School

Out of School Hours Care

**Infectious Diseases and
Infestations Policy**

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND INFESTATIONS OSHC POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

OSHC Services provide an opportunity for the spread of infectious diseases and infestations and so must take steps to prevent transmission through the OSHC community and on to the wider community. Whilst it is acknowledged that it is not possible to prevent all infectious diseases and infestations, OSHC services have a responsibility and legal obligation to take action to help prevent the spread. When an outbreak of head lice or other transmittable infestation occurs, the Service will follow procedures for infectious diseases. The Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board of South Australia will need to be notified if the infectious disease poses a risk to children's health, safety or wellbeing.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, educators, management, and visitors of the Service.

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

Dara OSHC Service follows the guidelines for the prevention of infectious diseases as outlined in the documents Staying Healthy in Childcare and Preventing Infectious Diseases in Childcare (National Health and Medical Research Council). Children suffering from infectious diseases will be excluded from OSHC for the length of time specified, or on the written advice from the child's medical practitioner

4. HOW THIS POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

The Service will act to prevent the spread of infectious diseases/infestations by:

- Ensuring current information about infectious diseases is held at the Service.
- Providing information to families regarding infectious diseases and exclusion from the Service as part of the family information pack.
- Providing appropriate hand washing facilities and supplies (as outlined in the Nutrition Policy).
- Encouraging effective hand washing techniques.
- Providing appropriate first aid supplies (as outlined in the Administration of First Aid Policy).
- Excluding children from the Service who are suffering from an infectious disease (as per the guidelines in Staying Healthy).
- Notifying families when an infectious disease has occurred at the Service.
- Providing immunisation information.

4.1 The Director is responsible for

Ensuring that the services practices and procedures minimise the spread of infection/infestation by:

- Regularly disinfecting and cleaning all equipment.
- Ensuring that there is no sharing of drinking/eating utensils.
- In the case of head lice, removing soft furnishings (bean bags), washing the 'dress ups', and restricting access to them until the immediate risk passes.
- Make sure that all material items such as towels, dress-ups, and cushion covers, will be laundered regularly.
- All rubbish or left-over food is to be disposed of immediately. Lids must remain on the bins at all times and bins should be emptied and wiped down with disinfectant daily.
- All staff are to wear disposable gloves when in contact with blood, open sores or other bodily substances, clothes contaminated with bodily fluids, or cleaning up a contaminated area. Staff must wash their hands with soap and water after removing the gloves.
- Staff with cuts, open wounds, or skin diseases such as dermatitis are to cover their wounds and wear disposable gloves. Used gloves should be disposed of safely.
- Children not sharing hats.
- Ensuring the Service holds information on specific diseases and exclusion periods and this information is to be made available to educators and families; and that the Staying Healthy document and posters are accessible to educators at all times.
- Ensuring the Service's documents are all current and available.
- Ensuring that any updates to the documents are made available to all educators in a timely fashion.
- Ensuring that information regarding the Service's policy on the exclusion of children with infectious diseases is made available to families in the family information pack, along with the recommendation that families keep children who are unwell at home.

4.2 Educators will ensure:

- That any child suspected of having an infectious illness is responded to and their health and emotional needs are supported at all times.
- To implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when treating ill children.
- To take into consideration the combination of children to decrease the risk of attaining an infectious disease or other illness.

4.3 Families will:

Alert the service if their child is diagnosed with an infectious illness.

5. OTHER OSHC POLICIES OR DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THIS POLICY

H9 Nutrition OSHC Policy

H3 First Aid OSHC Policy

A1 Enrolment and Orientation OSHC Policy

H15 Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illnesses OSHC policy

6. RELATIONSHIP TO REGULATIONS

National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2 – Children’s Health and Safety

Standard 2.1: Health

Standard 2.2: Safety

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Regulation 88: Infectious diseases

Regulation 168: Education and care services must have policies and procedures

7. REFERENCES

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority accessed on 14 February 2022

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 SI 653 (current version 30 December 2021)

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/si-2011-0653>

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. Accessed 12 February 2022

<https://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/our-publications/eca-code-ethics/>

Guide to the National Quality Standard. Accessed on 12 February 2022

[http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/\\$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf)

Department of Human Resources: National Immunisation Program Schedule NHMRC.

Staying Healthy—Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services. Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council,

5th Edition at <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines>

Public Health Act 2010 (as amended by Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013)

You’ve Got What?, Government of South Australia Department of Health at

www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/youve-got-what.htm

Health Support Planning at www.chess.sa.edu.au/Pathways/HSPbookinfull09.pdf

Wash, Wipe, Cover (Health SA) at

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+intern+et/healthy+living/protecting+your+health/preventing+disease+and+infection/wash+wipe+cover/wash+wipe+cover+tips>

Department of Health guidelines for managing head lice at

www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/branches/headlice/headlice-index.htm

National Health and Medical Research Council (NCAC) NCAC Fact Sheets for Infectious Diseases, page 85 – 172 at

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>

Communicable Disease Control Branch at [SA Health](#)

SA Health List of Notifiable Diseases at www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/PDF-files/1203-notifiablediseaselist.pdf

Notifiable disease reporting Government of South Australia SA Health accessed on 13 February 2022

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+intern+et/clinical+resources/health+notifications/notifiable+disease+reporting/notifiable+disease+reporting>

Infection control and disease prevention accessed 10 February 2022

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/schools-and-educators/health-safety-and-wellbeing/health-management/infection-control-and-disease-prevention>

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