

# Control of Infectious Diseases



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. Our Farmhouse Montessori School 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.

Our school will provide up-to-date information and advice to parents, families and educators sourced from the Australian Government, Department of Health and state Ministry of Health about infectious diseases as required. Recommendations from the Health Department will be strictly adhered to at all times.

## 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 FARMHOUSE MONTESSORI SCHOOLS NATIONAL REGULATIONS

CHILDREN (EDUCATION AND CARE FARMHOUSE MONTESSORI SCHOOLS) NATIONAL LAW NSW	
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

93	Administration of medication
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

## RELATED POLICIES

Nappy Change & Toileting Policy Physical Environment Policy Administration of Medication Policy Sleeping & Rest Requirement Policy  Incident, Illness, Accident & Trauma Policy Immunisation Policy Family Communication Policy	Administration of Medication Policy Hand Washing Policy Sick Children Policy Work Health and Safety Policy Medical Conditions Policy Health and Safety Policy Dental Health Policy
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## PURPOSE

Children encounter many other children and adults within the Farmhouse Montessori School environment, which can result in the contracting of infectious illnesses. Our Farmhouse Montessori School has a duty of care to ensure that children families, educators and visitors of the School are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the Farmhouse Montessori School's operation. We aim to manage illnesses and prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout the school. 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.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Farmhouse Montessori School.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Farmhouse Montessori School 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* (Fifth Edition) developed by the Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council.

We are guided by decisions regarding exclusion periods and notification of infectious diseases by the *Australian Government- Department of Health* and local Public Health Units in our jurisdiction as per the Public Health Act. The need for exclusion and the length of time a person is excluded from the Service depends on:

- How easily the infection can spread
- How long the person is likely to be infected and
- The severity of the infectious disease or illness.

This policy must be read in conjunction with our Quality Area 2 policies

- Immunisation Policy
- Sick children Policy
- Incident, illness, accident and trauma policy and

- Medical conditions Policy and
- Handwashing policy

INFORMATION TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE FARMHOUSE MONTESSORI SCHOOL.

INFORMATION	WEBSITE	PHONE NUMBER
The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Farmhouse Montessori School	<a href="http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule">http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule</a>	1800 671 811
The NSW Immunisation Schedule (March 2020)	<a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/nsw-immunisation-schedule.aspx">http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/nsw-immunisation-schedule.aspx</a>	
<b>NSW Health</b> Local NSW Public Health Unit Contact Details	<a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/phus.asp">http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/phus.asp</a>	1300 066 055

**Note homeopathic immunisation is not recognised.**

## PREVENTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Children enter education and care services when their immune systems are still developing. They have not been exposed to many common germs and therefore are susceptible to bacteria that may cause infections. Given the close physical contact children have with other children in early childhood and care, it is very easy for infectious diseases and illness to spread through normal daily activities.

The Farmhouse Montessori School implements rigorous hygienic practices to limit the spread of illness and infectious diseases including:

- Effective hand washing hygiene
- Cough and sneeze etiquette
- Use of gloves
- Exclusion of children, educators or staff when they are unwell or displaying symptoms of an infectious disease or virus.
- Effective cleaning of the environment and resources
- Requesting parents and visitors to use hand sanitizers when entering the school.

## 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 Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and 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.
- **From 1 January 2018 [NSW]** children who are unvaccinated due to their parent's conscientious objection will no longer be able to be enrolled in childcare in **NSW**. Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule will still be able to be enrolled upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.

Refer to Immunisation Policy for more information

### REPORTING OUTBREAKS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Outbreaks of communicable diseases and contagious viruses represent a threat to public health. To help prevent outbreaks, the Department of Health monitors the number of people who contract certain infectious diseases and their characteristics, the recent travel or attendance of infected people in a public place or on public transport, and works with health specialists and doctors to help prevent the transmission of diseases to other people.

The Public Health Act 2010 lawfully requires and authorises doctors, hospitals, laboratories, school principals and childcare centre directors to confidentially notify [NSW Health](#) of patients with certain conditions, and to provide the required information on the notification forms. Specialist trained public health staff review this information and if necessary, contact the patient's doctor, and sometimes the patient, to provide advice about disease control and to complete the collection of information.

All information is held confidentially in order to protect the patient's privacy. Both the NSW and Commonwealth Privacy Acts only release/disclose patient information where it is lawfully required or authorised.

#### Management will ensure:

- That all information regarding the prevention and transmission of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority.
- The school is required to notify the local [Public Health Unit](#) (PHU) by phone (call 1300 066 055) as soon as possible after they are made aware that a child enrolled at the Service is suffering from one of the following vaccine preventable diseases:
- Diphtheria

- Mumps
- Poliomyelitis
- Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib)
- Meningococcal disease
- Rubella ('German measles')
- Measles
- Pertussis ('whooping cough')
- Tetanus
- An outbreak of 2 or more people with gastrointestinal or respiratory illness.
- The implementation of recommendations from Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing the spread of Infectious Diseases in the early childhood environment.
- Children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the Farmhouse Montessori School.
- They collect, maintain, and appropriately store the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children in the Farmhouse Montessori School.
- Management will closely monitor health alerts and guidelines from Public Health Units and the Australian Government- Department of Health for any advice and emergency health management in the event of a contagious illness outbreak.
- exclusion periods for people with infectious diseases recommended by Government Authorities are implemented for all staff, children, parents, families and visitors
- the Service implements recommendations from [Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services](#) to maintain a healthy environment
- children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the Service
- required enrolment information, including health and immunisation records of enrolled children is collected, maintained and appropriately and securely stored
- a staff immunisation record that documents each staff member's previous infection or immunisations (including dates) is developed and maintained
- the Public Health Unit is notified in the event of an outbreak of viral gastroenteritis. Management must document the number of cases, dates of onset, duration of symptoms. An outbreak is when two or more children or staff have a sudden onset of diarrhoea or vomiting in a 2 day period. (NSW Government- Health 2019)

A Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible person will ensure:

- A hygienic environment is promoted and maintained.
- Cleaning and fridge temperature charts are completed each day and signed.
- 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 **NSW** Immunisation Schedule for children
  - Exclusion guidelines in the event of an infectious illness at the Farmhouse Montessori School for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all their immunisations
  - Advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any specific infectious illnesses that are suspected/present in the Farmhouse Montessori School
- To provide information to families about an infectious disease by displaying and emailing the Infectious Diseases Notification details.
- That an illness record form is completed no later than 24 hours of an illness occurring, remaining up to date and current
- 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 yearly.
- Advise staff of the recommended immunisations for people working with children. This can be found in the Staff Handbook.
- 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
- Children do not attend the Farmhouse Montessori School if they are unwell. If a child has been sick they must be well for **24hrs** before returning to the Farmhouse Montessori School. 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 Farmhouse Montessori School, if families provide a doctor's certificate/clearance outlining the child is no longer contagious and in full health.

- an Immunisation History Statement for each child is collected on enrolment and maintained regarding the child's immunisation status (AIR) and any medical conditions
- To complete the register of illness and/or document incidents of infectious diseases. Some diseases require your state authority to be notified.
- Cloths are colour coded so that a separate cloth is used for floors, bathroom, art and craft and meal surfaces.
- Equipment and materials that are absorbent and hard to clean will be aired in sunlight
- Washable equipment will be washed in **detergent and hot water or the dishwasher** and aired to dry.
- The Farmhouse Montessori School discourages the use of dummies at the school. However, dummies may be used in the Infant community during rest time. All dummies to be kept in a small hygienic protector with the child's name clearly stated to reduce the risk of cross contamination.
- All cleaning procedures will be displayed.
- Daily cleaning will be recorded and signed off by the Cleaning contractor.
- Furnishings, fabric tablecloths, bedding are to be laundered weekly and placed in the dryer or hung out to dry.
- Toilets/bathrooms are to be cleaned in the middle of the day, the end of the day and whenever needed throughout the day as per our displayed cleaning procedure
- All bodily fluids from floor and surfaces will be cleaned according to our displayed cleaning procedures.
- Pregnant staff do not change nappies or assist in toileting or cleaning up toileting accidents to prevent unexpected cross contamination.
  - to complete the register of *Illness, Accident or Trauma* and/or document incidents of infectious diseases no later than 24 hours of an illness or infectious disease occurring in the Service.
  - educators or staff who have diarrhoea or an infectious disease do not prepare food for others

#### 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.
- Families are aware of the need to collect their children as soon as practicable.
- Advise families that they will need to alert the Farmhouse Montessori School if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness.
- To maintain their own immunisation status, and advise the Approved Provider/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 such as hand washing, sneezing and cough etiquette
- To adhere to the Farmhouse Montessori Schools health and hygiene policy including:

- Hand washing
  - Daily cleaning of the Farmhouse Montessori School
  - 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 materials that is mouthed by a child is to be immediately removed and placed in the dishwasher at the end of the day.
  - All play dough is to be changed daily. 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.
  - A weekly clean will be carried out on other surfaces that may transmit germs such as doorknobs, low shelving, etc. This will be increased if an outbreak has been recorded in the Farmhouse Montessori School
  - If a child has a toileting accident, the items will be placed in a waterproof bag with the child's name on it. The bag will be stored in a sealed container labelled 'soiled/wet clothing' for parents to take home at end of the day.

#### Families will:

- Advise the Farmhouse Montessori School of their child's immunisation status, by providing an approved written documentation of for the Farmhouse Montessori School to copy and place in the child's file.
- adhere to the Service's policy regarding *Sick Children*
- exclude their child from care if they display symptoms of an infectious illness or disease or in the event of a vaccine preventable disease occurs in the Service and their child is not immunised fully
- advise the Service of their child's immunisation status, by providing a current Immunisation History Statement recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) for the Service to copy and place in the child's file.
- advise the Service when their child's medical action plan is updated.
- Advise the Farmhouse Montessori School when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated to ensure that enrolment records are up to date.
- Provide sufficient spare clothing ,relevant to the season particularly if your child is toilet training.

#### Source



Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government Department of Health *Health Topics* <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics>

Australian Government. Department of Health (2019). *National Immunisation Strategy for Australia 2019-2024*  
[https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-immunisation-strategy-for-australia-2019-2024\\_0.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-immunisation-strategy-for-australia-2019-2024_0.pdf)

Department of Human Resources: National Immunisation Program Schedule: <https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program>

Guide to the Education and Care Farmhouse Montessori Schools National Law and the Education and Care Farmhouse Montessori Schools National Regulations

ECA Code of Ethics

Guide to the National Quality Standard

[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 Farmhouse Montessori Schools 5th edition

Medicare Australia

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

Public Health Regulation 2012

Revised National Quality Standard (2018)

## REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	March 2020	NEXT REVIEW DATE	June 2021
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated the policy using new guidelines</li> <li>Implementation information added regarding infectious illnesses</li> <li>Added mandatory reporting to public health unit information</li> <li>Rearranged some content into new headings- Prevention Strategies</li> <li>deleted repeated items</li> <li>New sources added</li> </ul>		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor changes made to policy and terminology to ensure best practice</li> </ul>	June 2020	
October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated the references to comply with the revised National Quality Standard</li> </ul>	April 2019	