

Control of Infectious Diseases



Policy

The Farmhouse Montessori School seeks to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that the classrooms are clean and tidy. Particular attention should be paid to hand-basins, toilets and the disabled shower. Adequate soap, paper hand towels, brooms, refuse disposal bins and disinfectants must be available at all times.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Principal is responsible for the overseeing of first aid training for all key staff members. A number of blood-borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during body contact. The more serious include VIRAL HEPATITIS and HIV (AIDS) infections. All members of staff will be briefed on the correct handling of infectious disease contraband and the safe handling and removal.

Education and Care Schools National Regulations

Children (Education and Care 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
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

PURPOSE

Children encounter many other children and adults within the school environment, which can result in the contracting of infectious illnesses. The Farmhouse Montessori school has a duty of care to ensure that children families, educators and visitors are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the 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 School.

IMPLEMENTATION

Note homeopathic immunisation is not recognised.

New Immunisation Requirements

- 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.
- As of 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

Management will ensure:

- That all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority.
- The implementation of recommendations from Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing the spread of Infectious Diseases in the early childhood environment. Please refer to NHMRC 5th Edition for further information.
- Children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the School.
- They collect, maintain, and appropriately store the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children in the School.

A Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible person will ensure:

- A hygienic environment is maintained.
- 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 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 School
- To provide information to families about an infectious disease by displaying and emailing the Infectious Diseases Notification Sign/Notification and 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 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 school to confirm best practice.
- If a child has been sick/vomiting they must be well for 24hrs before returning to the 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 School, if families provide a doctor's certificate/clearance outlining the child is no longer contagious and in full health.
- 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.
- 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.
- Floor surfaces are to be cleaned on a daily basis 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.
- Pregnant staff do not change nappies or assist in toileting or cleaning up toileting accidents to prevent unexpected cross contamination.

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 gather their children as soon as practicable.
- Advise families that they will need to alert the 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.
- 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 schools Physical – Environment Safe and support policy & Handwashing policy including:
 - Hand washing
 - Daily cleaning of the 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 classroom activity/toy that is mouthed by a child is to be placed immediately in the toys basket located on the top shelf in the nappy change area or other designated area to be 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 to decrease the risk of cross contamination and recorded with the date and a signature as evidence.
- All play dough is to be made fresh every week. If there is an outbreak of vomiting and/or diarrhea, 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.
- 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 School
- If a child has a toileting accident, the items will be placed in a sealed plastic bag. The plastic bag will be placed into the students backpack for parents to take home. The class teacher will advise the parents on collection of the student at the end of the day of the soiled items in the backpack.

Families will:

- Advise the school of their child's immunisation status, by providing an approved written documentation of for the school to copy and place in the child's file.
- Advise the school when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated to ensure that enrolment records are up to date.
- Provide the school with the updated Immunisation certificate for the student's file.
- Provide sufficient spare clothing, particularly if your child is toilet training
- Understand the time frame involved if their child is sick and when they can return to school. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for more information.

Education

There is an obligation upon all relevant organisations to provide suitable information on the associated risk factors and prevention strategies against these diseases. Additional information may be obtained from State/Territory Health Departments.

The safe handling of contaminated clothing, equipment and surfaces must be brought to the attention of all staff this will be done during staff meetings and on annual first aid training days.

Although Hepatitis B vaccination is usually effective in raising immunity to Hepatitis B, it provides no protection against other blood-borne diseases, such as HIV, Hepatitis C, etc. Vaccination must not result in any relaxation of hygiene standards.

The following recommendations may reduce the risk of transmitting infectious diseases via a blood spill-

All open cuts and abrasions must be reported and treated immediately by one of the first aid officer at the school.

All areas

- All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood must be treated as potentially infectious. Equipment and surfaces should be cleaned immediately soiling or spills occur.
- Routine laundry procedures are adequate for the processing of all linen/clothes.
- Routine washing procedures using hot water and detergents are adequate for decontamination of most laundry items. Clothing with blood on it can, if necessary, be soaked in cold water normally the article is placed into a plastic bag for the parents to take home.
- Gloves should be worn when handling or washing soiled linen/clothing. General utility gloves, i.e. rubber household gloves, can be used for this task if we have none of the disposable latex rubber gloves available on site. These gloves should be washed in detergent after use, or discarded if they are peeled, cracked, discolored, torn, punctured or have other evidence of deterioration. The disposable latex gloves are located in a cupboard near the laundry.
- Contaminated linen soiled with blood or body substances should be carried in a leak proof plastic bag to the laundry simply to contain the body fluid and stop it spreading to the other laundry items.

Minimizing the risk of HIV and viral hepatitis transmission

- Those attending to bleeding children should wear non-utility gloves, i.e. disposable latex or vinyl gloves which must never be reused. These must be worn when: direct contact is anticipated with blood or body substances, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin, as when attending to first aid of a bleeding child and or staff member handling items or contact surfaces contaminated with blood or body substances.

Gloves must be changed and discarded:

- as soon as they are torn or punctured;
- after contact with each child/staff member.

Action to be taken in the event of a blood spill

In an accident where bleeding occurs and if:

- Staff must always wear gloves when dealing with any issues involving first aid matters especially those that involve blood.
- Skin is penetrated or broken:-
 - The immediate first aid is to clean the wound with water only.
 - Clothes that are bloodstained, they should be changed for clean ones once the wound has been treated. They should be handled with rubber gloves and treated as above.
- Blood gets on the skin:-
 - irrespective of whether they are cuts or abrasions wash well with soap and water if possible for both staff member and child.
- Eyes are contaminated:-
 - rinse the area gently but thoroughly, with the eyes open, with water or normal saline.
- A staff member is wearing contact lenses:
 - Leave the contact lenses in while the eye is irrigated with water or normal saline, the contact lenses are acting as a barrier to the eye.
 - When the eye has been adequately irrigated for several minutes, remove the contact lenses and clean in the normal manner.
 - They can then be reused. They do not have to be cleaned any differently than normal and they do not need to be discarded.
- Blood gets in the mouth, spit it out and rinse the mouth with water several times. Where there is an additional concern about infection, medical advice should be sought from a physician or clinic here there is experience in the management of HIV infection.
- Blood spill on the floor, the area needs to be mopped with disinfectant straight away so that other children and staff are not walking in and or near the area.

Source

- Staying Healthy in Childcare – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care(4th edition)

QA 2 Control of Infectious Diseases Policy

Policy Review Date	Modification	Next Review Date
<i>Approved: June 2009</i> <i>Reviewed: November 2011</i> <i>Reviewed: November 2012</i> <i>Reviewed: March 2014</i> <i>Reviewed: May 2015</i>		
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