

Children's Health & Safety

Infectious Disease and Immunisation Policy.

Our Vision.

To give every child **the best start in life.**

Our Mission.

To deliver high quality childcare and exciting learning opportunities for every child, giving them a head start as they prepare for school.

Our Values.

Care

We take care of the children entrusted to us and our dedicated staff. All are appreciated and diversity is valued.

Quality

We maintain the highest standards in care and safety and provide exceptional early years education.

Service

We provide exceptional service and are integral to supporting parents bringing up children.

Value

We provide outstanding value for our families.



Busy Bees Early Learning Australia aim to minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases by adhering to all recommended guidelines and directions from relevant health authorities. Busy Bees will take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of the infectious disease including contacting parents or an authorised emergency contact of children, who are notified of the occurrence as soon as practicable.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2 – Children's Health and Safety	
2.1 - Health	2.1.2 - Health Practices and Procedures
2.2 - Safety	2.2.1 - Supervision
	2.2.2 - Incident and Emergency Management
	2.2.3 - Child Protection
QUALITY AREA 6 – Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities	
6.1 – Supportive Relationships with Families	6.1.2 – Parents Views are Respected
QUALITY AREA 7 – Governance and Leadership	
7.1 - Governance	7.1.2 – Management Systems
7.2 – Leadership	7.2.3 – Development of Professionals

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS

Part 6	Operating an Education and Care Service (Law – 167, 172)
Part 4.2	Children's Health and Safety (Reg - 77, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90, 92, 93)
Part 4.7	Governance and Leadership (Reg - 162, 168, 170, 173)

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of Medication Policy	Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Child Enrolment and Orientation Policy	Medical Conditions Policy
Health and Hygiene Policy	Work Health and Safety Policy

PURPOSE

Promoting practices that reduce the transmission of infection, ensuring the exclusion of sick children and employees, supporting child immunisation, and implementing effective hygiene practices including cleaning contaminated surfaces. Busy Bees Early Learning will endeavour to promote awareness of infectious diseases and safe hygiene practices to children and Family members. i.e. – coughing into your sleeve and washing hands after blowing your nose.

Busy Bees encourages a high level of immunisation amongst children and staff of our Services, and will exclude children in New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia from enrolling due to state laws.

SCOPE

Children, Busy Bees Employees, Management, Visitors and Families

POLICY

Busy Bees Early Learning Australia endeavours to minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children and stakeholders by excluding anyone who may have an infectious disease or is too ill to attend the Service, facilitating the prevention and effective management of acute illness in children, and by reporting any infectious disease outbreak to the local Public Health Unit and by following any Health directions or mandates.

To prevent cross contamination, Busy Bees will have at all services, a minimum of one hand sanitiser at the entry into the building, conduct cleaning and maintenance process, especially for high-risk areas (e.g., bathroom, toilet, nappy change area, sandpit), furniture (e.g., cots), clothing, linen, and equipment (e.g., toys, carpets, mats).

Additionally Busy Bees will ensure staff have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., gloves, face masks) and trained in the use of this equipment.

Immunisations/Unvaccinated

Under state No Jab No Play laws, children who are unvaccinated due to their parent's conscientious objection will no longer be able to be enrolled in childcare in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australian. 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.

It is a requirement that current immunisation details are provided to the Service, and important to note that a child's immunisation status affects eligibility to the Families Child Care Subsidy under the National No Jab No Pay law. A current Immunisation Register based on the immunisation status of each enrolled child and employed person will be kept at the Service using online systems in place to record such information.

Any person who is not immunised will be excluded from the Service if, and when, an outbreak of an immunise-able infectious disease occurs to protect that person and to prevent further spread of infection. In the instance of the person being immunised and the immunisation records have not been provided to the Service, the person will be viewed as not being immunised and will require to be excluded.

Immunisation History Statements are required upon enrolment and must be provided at prescribed intervals to verify that the child is up to date with immunisations. These statements can be obtained by the parent/guardian via their MyGov account, phoning the Australian Immunisation Register or visiting a Medicare/Centrelink office.

Infectious Diseases/Illnesses and Exclusions

Busy Bees has adopted the Staying Healthy - Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services 5th Edition publication, developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council. When a child is diagnosed with an illness or infectious disease, the Service will refer to the publication to follow the recommended exclusion period and request a medical clearance from a medical practitioner stating that the child has fully recovered and is cleared to return to the Service.

The guidelines relating to the specific illness or infectious disease, as sourced from Staying Healthy, will be displayed in the Service to alert all Families. The Service Manager has the discretion to make the final decision on a child's re-attendance at the Service.

The Service will provide up to date information regarding specific illnesses and ways to minimise spread of infection, along with information about immunisation to Families and employees.

Occasionally, children might enter care with symptoms or signs of illness, or while in care, may suddenly develop an illness that has not been diagnosed by a doctor and that might be potentially infectious or life-threatening for the child. Symptoms may not clearly fit those listed in exclusion diseases making it difficult for the Service to decide whether to accept or exclude the child from care. Many of these illnesses, while not fitting the exclusion criteria, can transmit disease to other children in care, and many non-exclusion diseases can make a child too ill to participate in normal care activities.

In these instances, children may be excluded from the Service as guided by Staying Healthy, or at the discretion of the Responsible Person in conjunction with the Area Manager if they feel the child is too unwell to remain at the Service. Medical clearance from a medical practitioner may be requested.

Notification to the child's parents or authorised contact will occur according to the Services Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy and procedures.

All appropriate notifications to the local Public Health Unit are available under the 'Infectious Diseases requiring Notification to the local Public Health Unit' and must occur within 24 hours. The Nominated Supervisor will be responsible for notifying the local Public Health Unit.

The National Immunisation Program Schedule MUST BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE.

Pregnant Women

Busy Bees employees and visitors to the Service who are pregnant will be made aware of the increased risk and affect some infectious diseases have on the unborn child. If an employee or visitor is pregnant, it is important all people follow universal precautions, and the Nominated Supervisor is to encourage all employees and visitors to follow good infection control practices.

As the infectious disease Cytomegalovirus may pose significant risk to unborn children, pregnant employees may be relocated to reduce the risk of exposure to diseases that can harm their unborn baby. For example, if an employee who usually works in the nursery becomes pregnant, she may be relocated to an older aged room where she is less likely to be exposed to cytomegalovirus through nappy changing and feeding. Cleaning toileting accidents should also be avoided by pregnant women.

Public Health Units

State or Territory	Authority	Telephone number
Australian Capital Territory	ACT Health Health Protection Service, Communicable Disease control	02 62052155
New South Wales	NSW Health Public Health Division	02 9391000
Northern Territory	Northern Territory Department of Health - Centre for Disease Control	08 89228044
Queensland	Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Branch	07 33289724 07 33289728
South Australia	SA Health Communicable Diseases Branch	1300232272
Tasmania	Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Environmental Health Service	1800671738
Victoria	Victorian Department of Health Communicable Disease and Prevention Unit	1300651160
Western Australia	WA Department of Health Communicable Disease Control Directorate	08 93884878 08 93884868

SOURCES

[ACECQA](#)

[National Quality Standard](#)

[Education and Care services National Regulations](#)

[Education and Care Service National Law Act 2010](#)

[Early Childhood Australia](#)

[Staying Healthy: 5th Edition Preventing infectious disease in childcare](#)

[Department of Health](#)

[Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit](#)

[Australian Immunisation Register](#)

VERSION CONTROL

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and/or in line with legislation and organisation requirements.

Version	Date	Owner	Responsibility	Change Description
1	01/10/2023	Chief Pedagogy & Safeguarding Officer	Policy Development Officer	Replace all previous versions

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