

TECOMA PRIMARY SCHOOL OSHC DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

POLICY RATIONALE

This policy applies to Tecoma Primary School OSHC, educators, parents/guardians, children, and Volunteers.

Infectious diseases commonly affect children. Children are at greater risk of exposure at an Outside School Hours Care service and school than at home due to the amount of time spent with a large number of other children. Infectious diseases are divided into four categories by the method of notification and the information required. A Minimum Period of Exclusion from Schools and Children's Services for Infectious Diseases Cases and Contacts was developed to protect the public by preventing, or containing, outbreaks of infectious conditions common in schools and other children's services and is regulated by the Public Health Act of the state in which it operates, including the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2008 (Victoria).

The COVID-19 pandemic has become an infectious disease that impacts all elements of Education and Care Services. Tecoma Primary School OSHC follows the directives from the Department of Education and Training in regard to COVID-19.

An immunisation program is also in place to assist in the prevention and spread of infectious diseases. Families are required to confirm if the child has been immunised at the time of his/her enrolment.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Tecoma Primary School OSHC is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, educators, and any other persons participating in the program.
- Responding to the needs of the child who presents with symptoms of an infectious disease or head lice infestation while attending the service.
- Providing up-to-date information and resources for families and staff regarding the protection of all children from infectious diseases, immunisation programs and management of head lice infestation.

PROCEDURES

If the service is notified that a child has suffered or is suffering from an infectious illness, the service will exclude the child from attending the service for the time specified in the Department of Health and Human Services Exclusions Table. More information can be found in the Nationally based document, 'Staying Healthy in Child Care (5th edition)'.

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for:

- Informing the relevant State Regulatory Authority and State Communicable Diseases Control Unit, within twenty-four hours of receiving confirmation, that a child is suffering, or they believe a child is suffering from a vaccine-preventable disease, or a child who has not been immunised against such a disease has been in contact with a person at the service who is infected with that disease, as per the relevant State Legislation. Any exclusion will be based on firm medical evidence following diagnosis of a vaccine-preventable disease or on recommendations from the Communicable Diseases Control Unit.

The Responsible Person in day to day charge is responsible for:

- Contacting the parent or guardian of the child they suspect may be suffering from an infectious or vaccine-preventable disease, or that their child who is not immunised has been in contact with someone who has a vaccine-preventable disease and requesting the child be collected from the service as soon as possible. Those parents will be required to keep their child/ren at home when an infectious disease has been diagnosed at the service until there are no more occurrences of that disease and the exclusion period has ceased.
- Establishing good hygiene and infection control procedures and making them part of the routine for everyone in the workplace.
- Placing a sign at the main entrance of the service notifying any families, staff and visitors of any infectious diseases that may be harmful. (R 173)
- Ensuring the exclusion requirements for infectious diseases are adhered to as per the Communicable diseases exclusion table.
- Requesting parents/guardians notify the service if their child has an infectious disease.
- Providing information and resources to parents to assist in the identification and management of infectious diseases and infestations. This may include tip sheets from 'Staying Healthy In Child Care (5th Edition)'.
- In the case of a head lice outbreak, families/guardians will be contacted to collect their child for treatment if head lice are detected.
- Maintaining confidentiality at all times.

The parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Notifying the service if their child has an infectious disease or has been in contact with a person who is infected with an infectious disease, as per the Communicable Diseases Exclusion table
- Providing accurate and current information regarding the immunisation status of their child/children when they enrol and any subsequent changes to this while they are attending the service.
- Complying with the Communicable diseases exclusion table.
- Keeping their child at home when an infectious disease has been diagnosed at the service and their child is not fully immunised until there are no more occurrences of that disease and the exclusion period has ceased.
- Regularly checking their child's hair for lice or lice eggs and regularly inspecting all household members and then treating if necessary as well as ensuring their child does not attend the service with untreated head lice.
- Notifying the service if head lice have been found in their child's hair and when treatment has started.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to Tecoma Primary School community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Made available in hard copy from the OSHC program upon request.