

3.2 ILLNESS, INCLUDING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Policy

Mackay Family Day Care Scheme is committed to providing quality care in a home environment that considers children's health and wellbeing.

Mackay Family Day Care Scheme is committed to preventing and managing the spread of illness by promoting hygienic practices and excluding from care those who may be infectious.

The most important ways to break the chain of infection and stop the spread of diseases are:

- Effective hand hygiene
- Exclusion of ill children, educators and other staff
- Immunisation

Other strategies to prevent infection include:

- Cough and sneeze etiquette
- Appropriate use of gloves
- Effective environmental cleaning.

Procedures

1. Parents/guardians are required to make alternate arrangements for the care of their child when they are sick.
2. When a child becomes ill at home the parent/guardian should contact the educator to discuss the nature of the illness prior to taking their child to care.
3. Children (and in some cases the child's siblings) will be unable to attend care if the symptoms of illness indicate a serious or contagious disease.
4. If it is not clear from the condition of the child that exclusion is required, medical advice should be sought.
5. A child who has been excluded from care due to illness, may not return to care until:
 - in the case of any contagious illness, the exclusion period recommended in attachment 1 "Recommended Minimum Exclusion Periods for infectious conditions for schools, pre-schools and child care centres" has expired
 - the child has recovered enough to participate in normal care activities
6. If a child becomes ill during care an educator must:
 - provide appropriate care and attention to the child including any first aid required
 - complete the 'Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record'
 - contact the child's parent/guardian or authorised nominee if they believe the child is ill and unable to participate in normal care activities

7. If a child needs to be collected from care, all attempts to contact the parent/guardian or authorised nominee should be recorded on the 'Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record'.
8. In cases where the educator is unable to contact the parent/guardian or authorised nominee they should contact the co-ordination unit.
9. If there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at a family day care residence or approved family day care venue, the educator must ensure that a parent or an authorised nominee of each child being educated and cared for at the residence or venue as part of the service is notified of the occurrence as soon as practicable.
10. If the educator, a child, or member of the educator or child's household, has or may have contracted a notifiable contagious disease, the scheme manager must be notified.
11. An educator must not provide care if:
 - they, or a household member, have symptoms of an infectious disease for which an exclusion period exists
 - they are too ill to interact with children and provide education and care
 - a household member is ill and requires extra care and attention that will compromise their ability to care for and supervise children in care

"Staying Healthy" – Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services, 5th edition 2012 can be accessed at the Mackay Family Day Care office or online at:-

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch55_staying_healthy_childcare_5th_edition_0.pdf

Date Implemented	Review Date	Date Updated	Source
2015 June	2016 December 2019 December (2020 February) 2021 August	2018 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHMRC: Staying Healthy – Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services, 5th edition, 2012. • National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care, 2009 • Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.