

3.2 ILLNESS, INCLUDING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Policy Statement:

Mackay Family Day Care Scheme is committed to providing quality care in a home environment that prioritises children's health, safety 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.

Background:

The Education and Care Services National Regulations require approved providers to ensure their services have policies and procedures in relation to dealing with illness and infectious diseases. Illness and infectious diseases can spread rapidly in early childhood education and care services. Additionally, if a child has an ill family member at home, they could be incubating the illness, and risk bringing germs from home into the service.

Legislative Requirements:

Section/regulation	Description
Section 172	Offence to fail to display prescribed information.
Section 174	Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority.
Regulation 85	Incident, Injury, trauma and illness policy and procedures.
Regulation 86	Notification to parent of incident, injury, trauma and illness.
Regulation 87	Incident, Injury, trauma and illness record.
Regulation 88	Infectious Diseases.
Regulation 89	First aid kits.
Regulation 92	Medication record.
Regulation 93	Administration of medication.
Regulation 94	Exception to authorisation requirement – anaphylaxis or asthma emergency.
Regulation 95	Procedure for administration of medication.
Regulation 96	Self-administration of medication.
Regulation 103	Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair.
Regulation 136	First aid qualifications.
Regulation 161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record.
Regulation 168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures.

Regulation 170	Policies and procedures to be followed.
Regulation 171	Policies and procedures to be kept available.
Regulation 172	Notification of change to policies or procedures.
Regulation 173	Prescribed information to be displayed.
Regulation 175	Prescribed information to be notified to Regulatory Authority.

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 and the parent/guardian is unsure whether they should attend care, 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 "Recommended Minimum Exclusion Periods for infectious conditions for schools, pre-schools and child care centres" has expired, and
 - the child has recovered enough to participate in normal care activities.
6. If a child in care, or a close contact of a child in care is required to undergo a test for an infectious disease, the child will be excluded from care until a negative test result is received or for the recommended exclusion period following a positive result.
7. 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.
8. 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'.
9. In cases where the educator is unable to contact the parent/guardian or authorised nominee they should contact the co-ordination unit.
10. If there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at a family day care residence , 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.
11. 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.

12. An educator must not provide care if:

- they have symptoms of an infectious disease for which an exclusion period exists
- they, or a household member, is confirmed as having an infectious disease for which close contacts must isolate
- 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
- a household member is confirmed as having COVID-19 and is unable or unwilling to isolate in a completely separate part of the house with bathroom and toilet facilities which are not used as part of the family day care service.

“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 Reviewed	Date Updated	Source
2015 June	2016 December 2019 December 2022 February 2024 February 2025 August		2018 June 2020 August 2022 April 2022 August 2024 February	<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.