

POLICY –DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1.	National Quality Standards	1
2.	Purpose	1
3.	Scope	1
4.	Policy Statement	1
5.	Implementation	2
6.	Feedback	3
7.	Approval and Review Details	3
	Schedule 1 Exclusion Requirements*	5
	Appendix 1 Education and Care Services National Regulations	8
	Appendix 2 Source	8

1. National Quality Standards

Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety		
Area	Concept	Descriptor
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child’s wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child’s needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.1.2	Safety	Each child is protected.

[Appendix 1](#) includes the Education and Care Services National Regulations

2. Purpose

Baringa Early Learning Centre (Baringa) has a duty of care to ensure that children, families, educators, and visitors of the Service are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of Baringa’s operation. We aim to manage illnesses and prevent the spread of infection disease.

3. Scope

3.1 This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, and visitors of Baringa.

4. Policy Statement

4.1 Baringa will minimise children’s exposure to infectious diseases by adhering to all recommended guidelines from relevant government authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases, promoting practices that reduce the transmission of infection, ensuring the exclusion of sick children and educators, supporting child immunisation, and implementing effective hygiene practices.

4.2 Baringa will provide up-to-date information and advice to parents, families and educators sourced from the Australian Government Department of Health, Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and state Ministry of Health about infectious diseases as required.

5. Implementation

- 5.1 To minimise staff and children's exposure to infectious diseases Baringa will adhere to all recommended guidelines from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).
- 5.2 Management will ensure:
- a) Alerts and guidelines are monitored from ACT Department of Health and the Australian Government Department of Health, and their advice is followed in the event of a contagious illness outbreak.
 - b) The Regulatory Authority is notified of any incidence of a notifiable infectious disease or illness.
 - c) Exclusion periods for people with infectious diseases recommended by Government Authorities are implemented for all staff, children, parents, families, and visitors, as described in [Schedule 1](#).
 - d) A staff immunisation record that documents each staff member's previous infection or immunisations (including dates) is developed and maintained.
 - e) Staff are encouraged to maintain up-to-date knowledge with respect to Health and Safety through on-going professional development opportunities.
- 5.3 The Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person will ensure:
- a) A hygienic environment is promoted and maintained.
 - b) Children are supported in their understanding of health and hygiene practices throughout the daily program and routine (hand washing, hand drying, cough and sneeze etiquette).
 - c) Educators and staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves.
 - d) Families are provided with relevant materials and information on infectious diseases, health, and hygiene including:
 - o the current ACT Immunisation Schedule.
 - o exclusion guidelines in the event of a vaccine-preventable illness at the Service for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all their immunisations.
 - o verbal, displayed and written information and factsheets related to a currently relevant disease/infection and the necessary precautions/exclusions.
 - e) Families are advised that they must alert Baringa if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness.
 - f) All educators are mindful and maintain confidentiality of individual children's medical circumstances.
 - g) Opportunities for staff, children, and families to source pertinent up to date information from trusted sources on the prevention of infectious diseases and maintaining health and hygiene are provided.
 - h) To complete the register of *Incident, Injury, Trauma or Illness* and/or document incidents of infectious diseases no later than 24 hours of an illness or infectious disease occurring at Baringa.
 - i) Educators or staff who have diarrhoea or an infectious disease do not handle food for others.
 - j) Any risk to a child or adult with complex medical needs is minimised in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease or virus. This may require a risk assessment and decision-making regarding the suitability of attendance of the child or staff member during this time.
- 5.4 Educators will ensure:
- a) That any child suspected of having an infectious illness is responded to and their health and emotional needs are supported at all times.
 - b) Families are notified of their child's illness as outlined in the *Incident, Injury, Trauma or Illness Record*.
 - c) Any child suspected of having an infectious illness is isolated from other children where practicable and supervised whilst waiting for collection by parents or guardian.

- d) Families are aware of the need to collect their unwell child/children as soon as practicable from Baringa.
- e) All resources or items touched by a child with a suspected illness are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected e.g., surfaces, cushions, pillows, toys.
- f) Their own immunisation status is maintained, and Management is advised of any updates to their immunisation status.
- g) Opportunities are provided for children to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice such as hand washing, sneezing and cough etiquette.

5.5 Families will:

- a) Adhere to Baringa's policies regarding exclusion requirements outlined in schedule 1.
- b) Exclude their child from the service if they display symptoms of an infectious illness or disease or in the event of a vaccine preventable disease occurs at Baringa and their child is not immunised fully (see *Immunisation Policy*).
- c) Adhere to Baringa's restrictions of entry in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease or virus.
- d) Adhere to Baringa's risk minimisation strategies if their child has complex medical needs in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease or virus.

6.

Feedback

Families and staff may provide feedback about this document by emailing admin@baringa.org.au.

7.

Approval and Review Details

Approval and Review	Details
Approval Authority	Management
Administrator	Centre Director
Next Review Date	31 October 2024

History	Details
Amendment Notes and Date	19 May 2023 - Title updated to meet National Regulations guidelines. Removal of outdated Covid-19 information. Refer to Covid-19 Action Plan. 31 October 2021 - This policy replaces the Exclusions Policy.

Schedule 1 Exclusion Requirements*

Medical Condition	Action	Details
Health advice and exclusions as directed by Regulatory Authority, ACT Health and/or Australian Government.	Exclude	Period of exclusion and details as directed by Regulatory Authority, ACT Health and/or Australian Government.
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Antibiotics (prescribed)	Exclude	Children requiring antibiotic medicine, eye drops or ointment, are excluded for 36 hours from first dose or application. If the child has a repeat and the antibiotic is not continued as prescribed, an additional 36 hour exclusion is required.
Campylobacter	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Chicken Pox (Varicella)	Exclude	Until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in non-immunised children and less in immunised children. Other children at the centre with immune deficiency should be excluded for their own protection.
CMV (Cytomegalovirus infection)	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Conjunctivitis (Sticky eye)	Exclude	Until discharge has ceased, unless doctor has diagnosed a non-infectious conjunctivitis.
Croup	Exclude	Until cough and cold have cleared.
Cryptosporidium infection	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Diarrhoea: (no organism identified)	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Diarrhoea: Giardiasis	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Diarrhoea: Salmonella	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Diarrhoea: Shigella	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Diarrhoea: Rotavirus	Exclude	Until diarrhoea and vomiting has ceased.
Diphtheria	Exclude	Re-admit only on receipt of a medical certificate of 'freedom from infection'. Exclude household contacts.
Glandular Fever	Not excluded	Exclusion is not necessary.
Hand/Foot and Mouth Disease (Coxsackie)	Exclude	Until all blisters have dried.
Head lice (Pediculosis)	Exclude	Until day after appropriate treatment has commenced using appropriate wash.
Hepatitis A (Viral)	Include	Until medical certificate of recovery is received and until at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice.
Hepatitis B	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Hepatitis C	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.

Herpes Simplex (Cold Sores)	Exclude	Until the infected area has completely dried.
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	Do not exclude	Not excluded. If the person is severely immune compromised they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses. Staff must be aware of the possibility that any adult or child could be infected with HIV.
Hydatid disease	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Impetigo (school sores)	Exclude	Until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing.
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude	Until considered well.
Legionnaires' disease	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Leprosy	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Measles	Exclude	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash. For non-immune contacts, contact a public health unit for advice. All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude	Until well and has received appropriate antibiotics.
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude	Until considered well.
Meningococcal Infection	Exclude	Until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed.
Mouth Ulcers	Exclude	Until fully recovered.
Molluscum contagiosum	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Mumps	Exclude	For 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).
Norovirus	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours.
Panadol, Nurofen (being administered)	Exclude	Children requiring paracetamol or ibuprofen medicine are excluded for 24 hours from last dose.
Parvovirus infection (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Poliomyelitis	Exclude	For 14 days, or until evidence of infection has disappeared.
Rashes (undiagnosed)	Exclude	Until the rash clears.
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	Exclude	Until cough and cold has cleared.
Ringworm (tinea)	Exclude	Until the day after appropriate antifungal treatment has commenced.
Roseola	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Ross River virus	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Rotavirus infection	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours.

Rubella (German Measles)	Exclude	Until fully recovered, or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash.
Salmonella infection (Salmonellosis)	Exclude	Until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Scabies	Exclude	Until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.
Streptococcal Infection including acute tonsillitis, scarlet fever (Scarletina)	Exclude	Until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been received for at least 24 hours and the child is considered well.
Temperatures (Elevated)	Exclude	Until temperature has been within the child's normal range for 24 hours before returning to centre. Children needing medication for a temperature must not be brought into the centre.
Thrush/Oral Thrush (candidiasis)	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary. Ensure good hand washing and cleaning procedures are exercised.
Toxoplasmosis	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude	Until a medical certificate is produced from the appropriate health authority.
Typhoid / Paratyphoid Fever	Exclude	Until a letter from a medical practitioner is received to the effect that the child does not pose a risk to other children or the staff, recognising that the centre caters for children 0-6 years of age. Contacts are not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities.
Vomiting	Exclude	24 hours after the child has last vomited. Children needing medication for vomiting should not be brought into the centre.
Warts	Do not exclude	Exclusion is not necessary.
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	Exclude	Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment or for 21 days from the onset of coughing. Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated contacts, or antibiotics.
Worms	Exclude	Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring. Exclusion is not necessary if treatment has occurred.

*Source: National Health and Medical Research Council 2013, Table 1.1 Recommended minimum exclusion periods pp. 17-19, In *Staying Healthy 5th ed.* Accessed via <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>, viewed 2 July 2021.

Appendix 1 Education and Care Services National Regulations

Education and Care Services National Regulations	
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
93	Administration of medication
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
172(2) (g)	a notice stating that there has been an occurrence of an infectious disease at the premises
Education and Care Services National Law	
174(2) (a)	Notification to the Regulatory Authority- (a) any serious incident at the approved education and care service

Appendix 2 Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government Department of Health *Health Topics* <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics>

Australian Government. Department of Health (2019). *National Immunisation Strategy for Australia 2019-2024* https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-immunisation-strategy-for-australia-2019-2024_0.pdf

Australian Government Department of Health Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

Department of Human Resources: National Immunisation Program Schedule: <https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program>

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011).

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2020).

Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2020).

Medicare Australia (Department of Human Services): <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/medicare>

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012). *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood*

education and care services.

NSW Government Department of Health. Vaccination requirements for child care.

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx

NSW Public Health Unit: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/phus.aspx>

Public Health Act 2010

Public Health Amendment Act 2017

Public Health Regulation 2012

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 Victoria

Queensland Health [Information for parents about infectious diseases and exclusion periods in Queensland early childhood education centres and schools](#)

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Safe Work Australia