

# Hand Washing Policy



<b>Policy Relevant to:</b>	All educators, Team members and families
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	August 2023
<b>Next Review:</b>	September 2025
<b>NQF</b>	77, 88, 93, 106, 109, 168, 170
<b>NQS</b>	2.1, 2.1.2, 2.2, 2.2.1

## Purpose

Adventure Patch services are committed to ensuring the health and safety of all educators, team members, volunteers, families, and children by providing a safe and healthy environment. Effective hand hygiene significantly reduces the risk of infection and is therefore of the utmost importance. We aim to implement specific hand washing hygiene practices regularly to minimise the risks associated with cross infection of viral and bacterial borne diseases.

Having and encouraging effective hygiene practices in early childhood is essential for reducing the risk of infection. Helping children to develop appropriate personal hygiene habits, such as hand hygiene, will become embedded as they grow and develop. It is important to work with families to ensure children follow simple hygiene rules by incorporating effective hygiene strategies in both the service and home environment.

## Implementation

Infection can be spread through direct physical contact between people, airborne droplets from coughing and sneezing or from contact with surfaces and objects. Children come into contact with a large number of other children and adults, play equipment, eating utensils and other resources whilst being cared for in Education and Care Services. This high degree of physical contact with people and the environment creates a higher risk of children being exposed to and spreading infectious illnesses. Whilst it may not be possible for services to prevent the spread of all infections, we aim to create a hygienic environment to minimise the spread of diseases and infections.

Effective hand washing is a vital strategy in the prevention of spreading many infectious diseases. Research emphasises effective and frequent handwashing as the single most important way to reduce the spread of bacteria, germs, viruses, and parasites that may infect educators, staff and children in Education and Care Services and in our general population.

Micro-organisms such as bacteria, germs, viruses, and parasites are present on the hands at all times and live in the oil that is naturally produced on your hands. The use of soap or detergent and water removes most of these organisms and decreases the risk of cross infection.

Adventure Patch will adhere to National Regulation requirements, standards, and guidelines to support the effectiveness of our hand washing policy. We aim to educate and encourage children to wash their hands frequently and effectively which will help to reduce the incidence of infectious diseases, adhering to guidelines provided in *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* and

recommendations from the Department of Health- Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) to guide best practice.

### Related Policies

Animal and Pet Policy  
Bottle Warming Policy  
Infectious Diseases Policy  
Incident, injury, Trauma and Illness Policy  
Nappy Change Procedure  
Supervision Policy

### Related information/ resources

Be a Soapy Hero! <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/soapy-hero>  
NSW Department of Health [Handwashing poster](#)  
Play School [Hello Friends! \(A COVID-19 Special\)](#)  
[Teaching washing your hands with pepper experiment](#)  
The Wiggles: [The Handwashing Song](#)

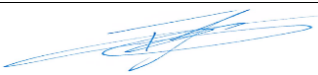
### Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).  
Australian Government Department of Health Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).  
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).  
[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023).  
Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2023).  
National Health and Medical Research Council. (2013). *Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* (5th Ed.). Australia: Commonwealth of Australia. NSW Government Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).  
Victoria State Government Better Health Channel [Handwashing-why it's important](#)

### Review History

Policy Reviewed By:	Scott Norris	DCEO	August 2023
POLICY REVIEWED	August 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	September 2025
Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>policy maintenance - no major changes to policy</li> <li>hyperlinks checked and repaired as required</li> <li>Updated related information and source list</li> </ul>		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
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### Signed

CEO:	
Manager:	S. Norris