

Infectious Diseases Policy

Policy Relevant to:	All Team members, Educators & families
Procedure:	Adventure Patch Infectious Diseases Procedure
Last Reviewed:	July 2023
Next Review:	April 2025
NQF:	77, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90, 93, 162, 168, 170, 172(2)(g), 173, 175(2)(c)
NQS:	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2
National Law:	172

Rationale

The spread of infections in the early childhood environment is facilitated by microbial contamination of the environment, as well as the greater exposure to young children who are still developing hygienic behaviours and habits. Adventure Patch 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.

Adventure Patch will provide up-to-date information and advice to parents, families, educators and team members sourced from the *Australian Government Department of Health, Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)* and state Ministry of Health about infectious diseases as required. Recommendations from the Health Department will be strictly adhered to at all times.

Purpose

Children encounter many other children and adults within Adventure Patch service environment which can result in the contraction of infectious illnesses. Adventure Patch has a duty of care to ensure that children, families, educators, team members and visitors of our services are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the operation. We aim to manage illnesses and prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout our care environments.

Immunisation is a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others within the community, by reducing the spread of disease and illnesses.

Implementation

Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, Adventure Patch must ensure policies and procedures are in place in relation to dealing with infectious diseases. (ACECQA, August 2021).

Adventure Patch is committed to minimise the spread of infectious diseases and viruses by implementing recommendations as stated in the *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (Fifth Edition)* developed by the

Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council and advice provided from the AHPPC.

We are guided by decisions regarding exclusion periods and notification of infectious diseases by the *Australian Government- Department of Health* and local Public Health Units in our jurisdiction as per the Public Health Act.

Recommendations for managing positive cases of COVID-19 in early education and care is provided by *Tasmanian Department of Health*

The need for exclusion and the length of time a person is excluded from Adventure Patch services depends on:

- how easily the infection can spread.
- how long the person is likely to be infectious and
- the severity of the infectious disease or illness.

Preventing Infectious Diseases

To break the infection chain cycle and stop to spread of infectious diseases, the Adventure Patch services will implement:

- Effective hand hygiene
- Cough and sneeze etiquette
- Exclusion of unwell children, educators and others
- Immunisation
- Appropriate use of gloves
- Effective environmental cleaning procedures
- requesting parents and visitors to wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer upon arrival and departure at the service
- physical distancing (if recommended by Australian Health Protection Principal Committee [AHPPC] and/or Safe Work Australia)
- use of face masks (as mandated by PHO or Service decision)
- restricting parents and visitors from entering our service to reduce threat of spread of a community disease (e.g. COVID-19)
- ensuring adequate ventilation
- encouraging children, educators or team members to seek medical attention and get tested if they show symptoms of an infectious disease or virus, including COVID-19.

Related Policies

COVID 19 Vaccination policy
Enrolment Policy
Hand Washing Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Medical Conditions Policy
Nappy Change and Toileting Policy
Sleep and Rest Policy
Unwell Children Protocol
Work Health and Safety Policy


Sources

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 ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines. *Dealing with Infectious Diseases*.
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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).
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 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*.
Public Health Act 2010
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 Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).
 Safe Work Australia

Review History

Policy Reviewed By:	Service Managers	Scott Norris	July 2023
POLICY REVIEWED	July 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	April 2025
Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re write of policy • Hyperlinks checked and repaired as required. 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
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Signed

CEO:	
Manager:	S. Norris