



## **DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND OTHER HEALTH ISSUES**

### **Regulations 4,85-89, 90, 92-96,168,177-178,181-184 QA 2 ,6**

#### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

At Elizabeth Grove Children's Centre, staff aim to try to prevent the spread of infection to other children. If symptoms occur while the child is in care and indicate that the child may be contagious or if a fever occurs, parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to collect their child as soon as possible. A high level of hygiene is an important part of protecting others from the spread of infectious disease.

#### **COMMON COLDS**

Children with the common cold will be admitted to the centre, but will be excluded when/if the child becomes feverish or seems unwell and not coping at the centre.

#### **VOMITING AND DIARRHOEA**

Parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to collect their child from the centre if their child vomits and/or has diarrhoea. The child will not be able to return to the centre until all vomiting and/or diarrhoea has ceased for a period of 24 hours.

#### **EYE DISCHARGE**

Parents/guardians will be contacted if their child has a discharge coming from his/her eyes and will need to collect their child as soon as possible. Treatment is required for a minimum of 24 hours and no discharge present before returning.

#### **OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES/HEALTH ISSUES**

Any signs of a child being unwell: A parent/guardian will be contacted to collect the child. A form is completed by the staff and a parent/guardian signs this. If a parent/guardian informs the centre that the child has an infectious disease (or any health issue that is potentially contagious) the child must stay away from the centre for the required period.

Notices, verbal contact with parents/guardians and/or information in newsletters will be provided to families about any outbreaks. In some instances, translators may be used to inform parents/guardians of the risks.

#### **MEDICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE**

Any child having a known contagious illness must not be brought to the centre until a medical practitioner has certified that the child is no longer contagious. In some instances, parents may be asked to provide a medical clearance (prior to attendance) if a child has been unwell/has had a contagious disease or if a child has a known injury that could impede play.

#### **GENERAL**

If there is any doubt as to whether a child is fit to be brought to the Centre, the staff should be contacted prior to bringing the child to the Centre for advice



## **PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATING WITH HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN THE EVENT OF A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE OUTBREAK**

SA Health Communicable Diseases Control Branch will be notified in the event of an outbreak of a notifiable disease at the Centre.

These include:

- Diarrhea (if several children in one group are ill);
- Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib);
- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B (recent illness only);
- Measles;
  - Meningococcal infection;
- Parvovirus B19 (if 2 or more cases);
- Pertussis;
- Roseola (if two or more children in one group are ill);
- Scarlet fever; and
- Tuberculosis (TB).

By informing the public health unit, the **centre benefits** because public health staff may be able to help:

- identify the cause of the illness.
- explain the consequences to children and staff of an infection.
- trace the source of the infection (for example, contaminated food).
- advise on appropriate control measures (for example, vaccines, antibiotics, exclusion, education, infection control practices).

*Public health staff can provide valuable advice and support and have access to resources that may be necessary to manage outbreaks.*

*Reviewed 1 December 2015. Next review May 2018.*