



DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

(This policy forms part of our Child Safe Environment Policies)

POLICY STATEMENT

Lennox Head Community Preschool is committed to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of all children, educators and families through effective hygiene, infection control and risk minimisation practices.

The safety, rights and best interests of children are the paramount consideration in all decisions and practices relating to infectious diseases.

The Preschool recognises that infectious diseases can spread rapidly in early childhood environments and is committed to implementing procedures that minimise the spread of infection, support children's wellbeing and comply with current health authority advice and legislative requirements.

PROCEDURES

Prevention and Hygiene Practices

The preschool will:

- Maintain high levels of hygiene and cleaning to minimise the spread of infectious diseases.
- Ensure the premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained, including high-risk areas such as bathrooms, toilets, carpets, mats and toys.
- Promote and model effective hygiene practices with children and families including handwashing, respiratory hygiene and safe toileting practices.
- Maintain cleaning and maintenance schedules.
- Ensure first aid kits are available and maintained.
- Implement advice and recommendations from recognised authorities including NSW Health and *Staying Healthy: Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services*.

Immunisation

Under the Public Health Act 2010:

- Parents/guardians must provide documented evidence of their child's immunisation status upon enrolment.
- Parents/guardians are required to provide updated immunisation records within two months of any due vaccination.
- Children with a medical exemption must provide approved AIR documentation completed by a medical practitioner.
- An immunisation register will be maintained and regularly updated.
- In the event of an outbreak, unimmunised children will be excluded from attendance in accordance with Department of Health guidelines.
- Fees will continue to apply during exclusion periods.

Infectious Disease Management

If an infectious disease occurs at the preschool:

- Families will be notified as soon as practicable in a manner that maintains confidentiality and privacy.
- Reasonable steps will be taken to prevent the spread of infection.
- Exclusion periods consistent with advice from recognised health authorities will be implemented.
- Notices regarding infectious disease outbreaks will be displayed as required.
- The Regulatory Authority and relevant health authorities will be notified where required.

- Children who become unwell while attending preschool will be separated from others and supervised until collected by a parent/guardian or authorised contact.
- Staff who are unwell or have an infectious disease are required to remain away from the service until no longer infectious.

Pandemic Response

In the event of a pandemic or public health emergency, the preschool will implement and follow advice and directions provided by relevant State and Commonwealth Government authorities to protect the health and safety of children, families and staff and minimise the spread of infection.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure the service operates in compliance with the Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations.
- Ensure reasonable steps are taken to prevent and manage infectious diseases.
- Ensure cleaning, hygiene and exclusion procedures are implemented.
- Ensure families are notified of infectious disease outbreaks as soon as practicable.
- Maintain immunisation records and exclusion requirements.
- Ensure the environment, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained.
- Ensure notification requirements to the Regulatory Authority are met where required.
- Support educators and staff to implement hygiene and infection control practices.

Educators and Staff will:

- Follow the Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy and procedures.
- Monitor children's health and wellbeing daily.
- Promote and role model effective hygiene practices.
- Maintain cleaning and infection control procedures.
- Notify the Nominated Supervisor of any suspected infectious illness.
- Remain away from the service if unwell or infectious.

Families will:

- Provide current immunisation documentation.
- Keep children at home when unwell or infectious.
- Keep children home if they have commenced any medication or been administered pain relief medication within the previous 24hrs
- Inform the preschool if their child has an infectious disease or has been exposed to an infectious illness.
- Follow exclusion requirements and health advice provided by the preschool.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Sections 2A, 167, 172 and 174
- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Regulations 85–88, 103, 168–173 and 175
- Public Health Act 2010
- Work Health and Safety legislation
- Staying Healthy: Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services.

(Reviewed annually with NQF and QIP)

Date last amended _____

President's signature _____