

Infectious Diseases Policy

Kangaroo Island Community Education – Parndana Campus Preschool

Purpose

To protect the health and wellbeing of children, staff, families, and visitors by minimising the risk of introduction and spread of infectious diseases at Parndana Preschool, in line with South Australian Public Health Act 2011, Education and Care Services National Regulations, and SA Health and Department for Education guidelines.

Scope

This policy applies to all children, families, staff, contractors, and visitors to Kangaroo Island Community Education – Parndana Preschool.

Policy Statement

We are committed to:

- Preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases in our service.
- Following Department for Education and SA Health exclusions, hygiene, and immunisation requirements.
- Maintaining accurate records and communicating clearly with families and staff about outbreaks and relevant actions.

Guiding Principles

- Vigilant hygiene, cleaning, and exclusion practices reduce the likelihood of disease spread.
- Timely communication, reporting, and adherence to exclusion guidelines are crucial.
- Immunisation protects both individuals and the wider community.
- Every person's dignity and privacy is maintained throughout illness management and notification¹²³⁴.

Strategies for Managing Infectious Diseases

Immunisation:

- On enrolment, families must provide an approved immunisation record; staff maintain up-to-date records for all children per Department requirements⁴.

- Children not meeting immunisation requirements may be excluded during outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in accordance with SA's no jab, no play policy.

Exclusion and Notification:

- Exclude any child or staff member with symptoms or diagnosis of infectious disease, following NHMRC and SA Health guidelines (e.g., fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, respiratory symptoms).
- Minimum exclusion times are enforced as outlined in the Staying Healthy – Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (NHMRC) and You've Got What? (SA Health).
- If an infectious vaccine-preventable disease occurs and a child is not immunised, that child must be excluded for the duration recommended by SA Health²³⁴.
- Notify families and staff of infectious disease outbreaks (without identifying individuals), so they can monitor symptoms and seek medical advice as required.

Infection Control and Hygiene:

- Staff and children are required to practise regular and thorough handwashing, respiratory hygiene (cover nose and mouth when sneezing/coughing), and appropriate use of personal protective equipment as necessary².
- Enhanced cleaning is carried out in affected areas and on frequently touched surfaces, following a suspected or confirmed illness².
- All staff must follow infection control standard precautions in handling blood, bodily fluids, and potentially contaminated materials².

Documentation and Communication:

- Maintain accurate records of immunisation, illness, absences, and reported cases.
- Translate communications as needed for families with English as an additional language (EALD)².

Liaison with Authorities:

- In case of notifiable or serious outbreaks, staff consult SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch for tailored response, advice, and community notifications.

Responding to Infectious Disease Events

- Isolate and care for unwell children in a designated area while awaiting collection.
- Notify emergency contacts for prompt pick-up.
- Encourage families to consult medical practitioners as needed.
- Report notifiable conditions as required.

Prohibited Practices

The following are NOT permitted:

- Allowing any child or staff with symptoms of an infectious illness to attend the service before the exclusion period ends.
- Failing to notify families of relevant outbreaks.
- Discriminating against a child or family due to illness or immunisation status, except as required for exclusion by law.
- Breaches of privacy and confidentiality regarding health matters.

Partnerships with Families

We work in partnership by:

- Providing this policy and current exclusion guidelines to all families on enrolment and when updates occur.
- Communicating promptly about outbreaks and changes in public health advice.
- Supporting the immunisation and health requirements for all children.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier in response to new guidelines, legislation, or identified risk.

References

- SA Health – You’ve Got What?
- NHMRC – Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services
- Department for Education Protecting Children Against Vaccine Preventable Diseases Procedure¹⁴
- Department for Education First Aid and Infection Control Standard²
- SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch