



East Adelaide School Out of School Hours Care

Infectious Diseases and Infestation Policy

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Out of School Hours Care

Last Review: 2022

Next Review: 2025

1. Background

East Adelaide OSHC takes active steps to prevent the spread of infectious disease through hygiene practices in adherence to up-to-date first aid and health guidelines. Whilst it is acknowledged that it is not possible to prevent all infectious diseases and infestations, OSHC services have a responsibility and legal obligation to act in order to help prevent the spread of these.

When an outbreak of a transmittable infestation occurs, the service will follow procedures as for infectious diseases. It is not required that this is reported to the Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board of South Australia but parents / caregivers be notified within the service. It is also an expectation of our service that families notify OSHC of any infectious diseases or infestations.

2. Policy Statement on Interactions with Children

East Adelaide OSHC Service follows the guidelines for prevention of infectious diseases as outlined in the document *'staying healthy in child care'* – preventing infectious diseases in child care (*National Health and Medical Research Council*). Children suffering from infectious disease will be excluded from OSHC for the length of time specified or on the written advice from the child's medical practitioner.

3. Definitions

- ESB Education Standards Board
- ACECQA Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority

4. Relationships to Other Policy/Regulation

Education and Care Services National Regulations	88 – Infectious Diseases 168 – Education and care services must have policies and procedures
National Quality Standard	2.1 – Health
Other policies/service documentation	Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy Nutrition Policy Administration of First Aid Policy FullyBooked Enrolment
Other Legislation/Guidelines	



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5. Infectious Disease Management

5.1. General

The service will act to prevent the spread of infectious disease / infestations by:

- Providing appropriate handwashing facilities and supplies
- Encouraging effective handwashing techniques
- Providing appropriate first aid supplies (as outlined in the Administration of First Aid Policy)
- Excluding children from the service who are suffering from an infectious disease (as per the guidelines in Staying Healthy in Child Care).
- Notifying families when an infectious disease has occurred at the service

5.2. Responsibilities

The Director is responsible for:

Ensuring that the service's practices and procedures minimise the spread of infection / infestation by:

- Regularly disinfecting and cleaning all equipment
- Ensuring that drinking / eating utensils are not shared
- In the case of head lice, removing soft furnishings (Bean bags), washing the 'dress ups' and restricting access to them until the immediate risk passes.
- Ensuring the service's documents are all current and available.
- Ensuring that any updates to the documents are made available to all educators in a timely fashion.
- Ensuring that the most up to date Infectious Diseases and Infestation Policy is posted on the School Website and that families are recommended to keep their children, who are unwell, home.

5.3. Identification of an infectious disease

5.3.1 Head Lice

In the event that a child is suspected of being infested with head lice:

- Parents will be notified as soon as possible.
- The parents will be informed that the child will be readmitted to care after approved and appropriate treatment has been administered.
- Other families will be advised when there is an infestation of head lice within the service (e.g. through the school messaging services), while maintaining confidentiality regarding children involved.
- Keeping child's identity confidential



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5.3.2 Other Infectious Diseases

5.3.2.1. On Arrival

In the event of an educator suspecting that a child arriving at the service is suffering from an infectious disease:

- The educator will approach the Director or other OSHC Leadership for a second opinion.
- If the Director or OSHC Leadership also suspects a child is suffering from an infectious disease, they will advise the person who dropped the child off that the child is suffering from an infectious disease and request that the child is removed from the service until a medical practitioner has determined that the child is no longer infectious.

5.3.2.2. During the service

In the event that an educator suspects that a child in attendance at the service is suffering from an infectious disease:

- The child will be withdrawn from the main group and taken to a separate area, where the educator will further assess the child's current health condition and maintain surveillance whilst making the child comfortable.
- An educator will contact the family, or if unsuccessful, the emergency contacts in order of priority and advise arrangements to collect the child from the service.
- Notify staff before their next shift.

5.3.2.3. After leaving the service

In the event that a child with an infectious disease has attended the service, the director will:

- Ensure that the families of children in attendance that day, or any other previous day the child has attended and may have been infectious, are notified as soon as practicable. Confidentiality will be maintained and only the name and nature of the infectious disease is available to families.
- Ensure OSHC staff are notified before their next shift.



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6. References

1. Communicable Diseases Factsheet
https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Factsheets/infectious_childhood.PDF
2. Staying Healthy
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>
3. You've Got What?
<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/healthy+living/protecting+your+health/preventing+disease+and+infection/youve+got+what/youve+got+what>
4. Wash, Wipe, Cover
<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/healthy+living/protecting+your+health/preventing+disease+and+infection/wash+wipe+cover/wash+wipe+cover+tips>
5. ACECQA Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Hygiene
<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard/quality-area-2-childrens-health-and-safety>
6. Notifiable Disease Reporting
<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/clinical+resources/health+notifications/notifiable+disease+reporting/notifiable+disease+reporting>



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	Name	Signature	Date	Position
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Approved by:				Governing Council Chair