

# Children Illness Policy



- Rationale:** To ensure children within the centre environment are healthy and well and not spreading sickness.
- Purpose:** To ensure there are clear guidelines in place about when a child is sick.

## PROCEDURES

- If a child is prescribed antibiotics, we require the child to stay away for at least 24 hours after their first dose. In some instances, this can be negotiated. eg skin infection that can be covered we may allow a 12-hour period. Management is to make this decision.
- If a child is requiring pamol/nurofen for more than 24 hours parents/whānau may be spoken to. Generally, a child needing pamol/nurofen for more than 24 hours is not well enough to cope with a full day at preschool.
- Pamol/nurofen cannot be administered at preschool unless prescribed by a medical professional and the medication must have a printed named label on it (unless at the discretion of management/team leaders).
- Children who are sick are not to be present at the centre. Sickness includes vomiting, diarrhoea, high temperatures, a green runny nose along with any other flu like symptoms, conjunctivitis, impetigo and any other contagious illness.
- Ministry of Health class a temperature as anything above and including 38.0 °C which will require the child to be collected from preschool.
- If a child is feeling warm we will monitor their temperature from 37.7 °C rechecking it every 30 minutes unless it lowers. Kaiako will ensure they have taken reasonable steps to bring a temperature down (removing layers of clothing, change of environment, drink of water and cold cloth if needed).
- If a child is sent home from preschool with a high temperature there will be a 24 hour stand down period unless discussed with management/team leaders.
- Management will ensure that children are protected from contracting infectious diseases.
- There must be a period of at least 24hr absence if a child is diagnosed with having a viral infection. If a child has vomiting and diarrhoea, they must remain absent from the centre until 48 hours after their last symptom.
- If a child arrives at the centre and is clearly not well, staff and management reserve the right not to allow that child to be left at the centre. This is for the wellness of other children and staff.
- If parents are called to collect their child due to illness, they must do so as soon as possible. If parents are unable to do so they must then organise someone else to collect their child. If parents/emergency contacts cannot be reached we reserve the right to take children to their local GP/hospital if deemed necessary.
- If after more than an hour no one has arrived to collect the child, we reserve the right to call the police and work with them to get hold of parents/whānau to collect their child. A current list of infectious diseases consistent with infectious diseases for criterion HS26 will be displayed in the centre, enabling parents to access the information at all times.

CHILDREN ILLNESS POLICY HS  
NELP 1.1

DATE ADOPTED: Term 2 2024  
DATE FOR REVIEW: Term 2 2025

# Children Illness Policy



- If a child has an illness not covered in this policy, teachers will refer to the infectious disease chart, or reliable online information to determine the infection period, which will determine how long a child must stay away from the centre.
- If a child becomes unwell while at the centre they will be isolated from other children and watched over by a staff member until collected by a parent/caregiver.
- If a child is waiting for test results for an infectious illness they are not to attend preschool until clear results have been received and the infectious period has passed, i.e. stool samples and blood tests.
- If a child becomes seriously ill, we will contact emergency services if deemed necessary.
- Children who have been given immunisations or flu jabs are asked to stay away for 12 hours for 2 years and over and 24 hours for under two children. This ensures that children's systems are able to deal with the live bug and they have the chance to rest and recover.

Ministry of Health Infectious Diseases [https://www.healthed.govt.nz/system/files/resource-files/HE1215\\_Infectious%20diseases.pdf](https://www.healthed.govt.nz/system/files/resource-files/HE1215_Infectious%20diseases.pdf)

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## Appendix 1 – common illnesses not covered on the infectious diseases chart.

	COLDSORES
Symptoms	Itchy and or painful blisters commonly around the mouth.
Exclusion period	Until the coldsores have crusted or healed or can be fully covered.
Disease is spread by	The fluid from the blisters and the saliva are highly infectious and the infection can be passed onto others through direct contact or through contamination on toys or feeding utensils.
Infectious period	Infectious period is usually between 2 – 20 days after contact with an infected person.
<a href="http://www.rph.org.nz/public-health-topics/early-childhood-centres/fact-sheets/cold-sores-herpes-simplex.pdf">http://www.rph.org.nz/public-health-topics/early-childhood-centres/fact-sheets/cold-sores-herpes-simplex.pdf</a>	

	TEETHING
Symptoms	Irritability, tender and swollen gums, fever, cough, diarrhoea, fingers or objects in mouth.
Exclusion period	If the child requires pamol for more than 24 hours or cannot participate in the programme.
<a href="https://www.medicinenet.com/teething/article.htm">https://www.medicinenet.com/teething/article.htm</a>	

	EAR INFECTION
Symptoms	Touch their ear often, cry and become distressed, upset and harder to settle, become clingy or grizzly.
Exclusion period	If they cannot hear and are suffering increased discomfort.
<a href="https://www.kidshealth.org.nz/ear-infections-detail">https://www.kidshealth.org.nz/ear-infections-detail</a>	

	LETHARGIC
Symptoms	Tired, restless, clingy, upset, not wanting to participate, crying, withdrawn behaviours.
Exclusion period	Management/team leaders reserve the right to send the child home.

	HEAD LICE
Symptoms	Itchy head, live lice.
Exclusion period	12 hours after live lice have been chemically treated
Disease is spread by	Sharing hats, sheets, pillow cases, hair ties, hair brushes.
<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/head-lice">https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/head-lice</a>	

	VIRAL CROUP
Symptoms	Begins with a cold that develops into a barky cough. The child's airway will swell, making breathing noisy and more difficult and your child may have a temperature.
Exclusion period	Until fever has gone and child is feeling better.
Disease is spread by	Spread through the air when people with croup sneeze or cough.
<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/croup">https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/croup</a>	