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## 2.4 Immunisation, Infectious and Notifiable Diseases Policy

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## Aims

**Cootamundra Preschool** will pursue the following aims in relation to immunisation, infectious and notifiable diseases and in doing so will pursue its philosophy of supporting the wellness of families and also of the rural community it serves. As such this centre will:

1. Encourage children and adults involved with the centre to become immunised and also to maintain their immunisation schedule as per the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule (see Source 4 below)
2. Use health practices that minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases among children, centre staff plus any others present. Provide community related information about relevant health matters to parents
3. Identify non vaccinated children and keep details of vaccinated children's immunisations and make available any public health information about these processes to parents
4. Ensure at the initial enrolment/parent interview that parents are informed of the necessity for the centre to exclude non vaccinated children if a vaccine preventable disease occurs among anyone connected to the center and also of the fact that the child presenting with symptoms will be excluded from the centre until such time as a doctor certifies that they are no longer infectious
6. Notify the necessary public health authorities (as per the procedures below) in the event of an outbreak of vaccine preventable sickness at the centre

## Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Occupational Health & Safety Act 2000

Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2001

Public Health Act and Regulations (NSW) 1991 plus amendments (1992)

## Who Is Effected By This Policy?

Children/parents/other family members

Staff

High school/TAFE/university students who may be undertaking practical visits

Management

Visitors

Volunteers

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## Relevant Early Childhood Professional Standards

Early Childhood Code of Ethics:	1-1, II-3, II-4, VI-3,
Early Years Learning Framework:	Outcomes – 1.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 3. Principles – 1, 2, 4
Education & Care Services Australian National Regulations:	88, 89, 136, 168(2c),
National Quality Framework:	Quality areas – 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 7.1.2

## Sources/References

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## Procedures

### **1. Minimising and managing the spread of infectious disease**

To minimise the spread of infectious disease among children, centre staff and visitors, **Cootamundra Preschool** will:

**1.1.1** Exclude from care and notify the local Public Health Unit in relation to (1) any of the following vaccine preventable diseases and (2) any adult or child on the premises who is known to be unvaccinated. (A Public Health Unit is based in Albury, 0260808900. Other Public Health services should be contacted in the local community, such as Medical Centre and Hospital) These phone numbers will be easily accessible. Parents/guardian of both the affected child and also of unvaccinated children will be notified immediately and asked to collect their child:

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Diphtheria  
Poliomyelitis  
German measles  
Tetanus  
Measles  
Mumps  
Whooping Cough

**1.1.2** At the discretion of the Director, a child or staff member may be excluded with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have a potentially serious illness:

vomiting  
rash, especially if purplish or hemorrhaging spots (possibly meningococcal) or blistering (possibly staphylococcal)  
headache  
stiffness of the neck  
aversion to light (photophobia)  
drowsiness or any unusual state of consciousness or behaviour  
convulsion or epileptic seizure  
severe pain anywhere (including toothache)  
swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue, throat, neck or airways  
hives  
asthma, wheezing, or any difficulty breathing

**1.1.3** At the discretion of the Director, a child or staff member will be excluded with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have an infectious illness:

diarrhoea  
generalised rash  
enlarged or tender lymph glands  
severe cough with fever  
head lice, nits, scabies, ringworm, impetigo, or mouth ulcers not yet treated  
mouth ulcers due to herpes simplex virus or coxsackie virus  
infection or yellow or green discharge of the eyes or ears  
excessive yellow or green discharge of the nose  
if any other infectious disease is suspected

**1.1.4** Exclude children, staff, volunteers or visitors who have infectious diseases other than listed above, in accordance with the NHMRC Recommended Minimum periods of exclusion (see table below).

**1.1.5** Ensure all staff and persons working at the centre conform to the infectious disease procedures as in this policy

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1.1.6 If a staff member has an exemption from immunisation or the Director is unaware of a staff members immunization status, then in a case of an outbreak the Director can exclude that staff member from the service until further notice without pay.

## **1.2 Management of infectious diseases**

**1.2.1** The affected child will be isolated from other children. Staff will ensure the child is comfortable, and is supervised by a staff member

**1.2.2** The child's parents will be contacted or if they are unavailable, the contact person for emergencies as listed on the enrolment form. Inform the parents or contact person of the child's condition, or suspected condition, and ask that the child be picked up from the centre as soon as possible. Where possible this information should be made available in the relevant community language

**1.2.3** All bedding, towels, clothing, etc. that have been used by the child will be disinfected – these articles should be washed separately and, if possible, aired in the sun to dry

**1.2.4** All contact toys will be separated and disinfected

**1.2.5** All eating utensils will be separated and sterilised

**1.2.6** All families will be informed of the presence of an infectious disease in the centre immediately, a notice will be placed out the front of the service for all parents, this will include an Infectious Disease Notification and Information on the disease from Staying Healthy in Child Care.

**1.2.7** The centre will ensure confidentiality of any personal or health related information obtained by centre staff in relation to any children, children's parents and families

**1.2.8** If a child or staff member has been unable to attend the centre because of an infectious illness, when that child or staff member has fully recovered they must obtain a certificate from their doctor which specifically states that they are not infectious and are able to attend the centre OR if they return prior to the exclusion time , we require a medical certificate.

## **2. Mandatory notification of infectious diseases**

Under the Public Health Act (Amendment) 1992, all child education/care services must by law notify the Public Health authorities/Public Health Unit in the event of an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease in their service. To this end the centre will maintain records about the immunisation status of children, which will be updated and will also include details for children who are not immunised. Parents also have a responsibility to notify the centre if their child develops a vaccine preventable disease to assist in notifying the Public Health Unit. The procedure in this event would be as follows:

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**2.1** Parent/Guardian notify the centre that their child has been diagnosed with a vaccine preventable illness.

**2.2** The Director would then call their Public Health Unit. In rural areas this can be one or more of the following:

Medical Centre

Local hospital

Local ambulance station

Community Health Centre

**2.3** The Director will provide the following information about the child:

Name of child and parent/s names

Date of birth

Address

Contact details

Names and ages of siblings

A list of any non vaccinated children at the centre and their details.

**2.4** The Director would ensure that public notification of a vaccine preventable disease will occur at the early childhood centre, either in the form of an immediate letter to parents and/or large poster at the entrance but preferably both

**2.5** In the event that a sick child with a vaccine preventable disease has younger siblings, the Public Health Officer should immediately inform the local Child Health Clinic. Alternatively if the child has school aged siblings the Public Health Officer should immediately inform the school. It is recommended the centre Director inform this official about any siblings and request this action be taken.

In the event that the Director identifies the disease, Step 1 above becomes redundant.

### **3. Immunisation procedures for children, contact staff and visitors to the centre**

**3.1** The Public Health Act (Amendment) Act 1992 requires parents of all children enrolling in early childhood facilities from 1994 to provide documented evidence of the child's immunisation status. Immunisations received should be appropriate to the child's age. Immunisation is not compulsory, however in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the centre, non immunised children and adults will be excluded from the centre until rendered no longer contagious by a doctor. Parents remain responsible for payment of centre fees while their child is excluded.

Acceptable documentary evidence of immunisation is any one of the following:

- a letter from a doctor, Child Health Clinic, nurse or local hospital

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- the child's Personal Health Record (or Blue Book)
- The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register History Statement

**3.2.** It is the parent/s/guardian/s responsibility to keep their child's immunisation up to date, and to report any ongoing vaccinations to the centre. Failure to do so may mean their child is regarded as not being immunised. This needs to be communicated to parents upon enrolment.

**3.3 Cootamundra Preschool** will provide information on vaccinations in the community and will encourage all children, parents and staff to keep their immunisations up to date

**3.4** If necessary the Director may need to inform families that homeopathic immunisation has not been proven to give protection against infectious diseases. Therefore children who have only received homeopathic immunisation are considered not to be protected against vaccine preventable diseases and not immunised.

**3.5** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have a different immunisation schedule. **Cootamundra Preschool** recognises this (see Sources 3 (b)) and will support Aboriginal families as per the other procedures noted above in relation to their particular immunisation schedule.

**The Director will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.**

## I Health & Medical Research Council

### Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

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Recommended minimum periods of exclusion from school, pre-school and child care centres for cases and contacts with cases with infectious diseases.

CONDITION	EXCLUSION OF CASES	EXCLUSION OF CONTACTS
Amoebiasis ( <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> )	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded.
Campylobacter	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded.
Candidiasis	See Thrush	

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Chicken pox	Exclude for at least 5 days AND until all blisters have dried.	Any child with an immune deficiency (e.g. leukemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise not excluded.
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased.	Not excluded.
Cytomegalovirus Infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded.
Diarrhoea	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded.
Diphtheria	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least two negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and the other 48 hours later.	Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority.
German Measles	See "Rubella"	
Giardiasis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	
Glandular fever (mononucleosis)	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Until blisters have dried.	Not excluded.
Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received.	Not excluded.
Head Lice	Exclusion is not necessary if effective treatment is commenced prior to the next day at child care.	Not excluded
Hepatitis A	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis B	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis C	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.
Herpes (cold sores)	Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible.	Not excluded.
Hookworm	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.

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Human immune-deficiency virus infection (HIV/AIDS virus)	Exclusion is not necessary unless the child has a secondary infection.	Not excluded.
Hydatid Disease	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing.	Not excluded.
Influenza and influenza like illnesses	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.
Legionnaires disease	Exclusion is not necessary	Not Excluded
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority.	Not excluded.
Measles	Exclude for at least 4 days after onset of rash.	Immunised contacts not excluded. Unimmunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If unimmunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hrs of their first contact with the first case they may return to school.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until well and received appropriate antibiotics	Not excluded.
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until well	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed.	Not excluded if receiving rifampicin.
Molluscum contagiosum	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).	Not excluded.
Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours	Not excluded
Parvovirus (erythema infectiosum fifth disease, Slapped cheek)	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.
Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (lice), trachoma	Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.	Not excluded.

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Rubella (german measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of rash.	Not excluded.
Roseola	Exclusion not necessary	Not excluded
Ross River virus	Exclusion not necessary	Not excluded
Rotavirus infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours	Not excluded
Salmonella, Shigella	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded.
Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hrs and the person feels well.	Not excluded.
Shigella infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Toxoplasmosis	Exclusion not necessary	Not excluded
Tuberculosis	Exclude until a medical certificate from an appropriate health authority is received.	Not excluded.
Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever)	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority.	Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities.
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhea)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours	Not excluded
Whooping cough	Exclude the child for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment.	Exclude unimmunised household contacts aged less than 7 years for 14 days after the last exposure to infection or until they have taken 5 days of a 14-day course of antibiotics. (Exclude close child care contacts until they have commenced antibiotics).
Worms (intestinal)	Exclude if diarrhoea present.	Not excluded.

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**Note:** *The NHMRC recommends that children who are physically unwell should be excluded from attending school, pre-school and child care centres. This list should be read in conjunction with the National Health and Medical Research Council's publication:*

National Health and Medical Research Council. June, 2001. *Staying Healthy in Child Care*. 4th edition, Canberra, AGPS.

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