

Outbreak Policy

Statement

SA Montessori aims to uphold its obligation under the laws of the Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Division 2, Section 19, Subsection 3 (A) to provide a safe and healthy environment for employees, children and visitors attending the centres.

Rationale

Children and adults have a right to safe environments where their health and well-being is protected. When a cluster or outbreak of infectious illness is present in a centre it represents a higher degree of risk to the health and safety of our community and, as such, requires stricter protocols in place to minimise the threat.

Procedures

- As per our Illness Policy, the service will proactively notify relevant stakeholders (including families, public health authorities and the regulatory body) when a first instance of a notifiable infectious disease is present in the centre.
At the stage of an *isolated* case the standard protocols of our Illness Policy will be implemented, including the requirement for unwell children to be excluded for the period advised by a medical professional.
- **The service will consider that a cluster has occurred when three or more cases of a specific infectious illness are identified within the span of the disease's incubation and infectious period.**
- At this stage the Outbreak Policy protocols listed below will take effect to minimise the spread.
 - **Notification:**
In addition to the standard notifications, those with known impaired immunity (including pregnant women) will be *directly* advised when there is a known cluster or outbreak of contagious diseases.
 - **Exclusion:**
In addition to the standard Exclusion Periods recommended in *Staying Healthy in Childcare (5th Edition)*, further exclusion periods may temporarily be implemented in the event of an outbreak. As per the advice in *Staying Healthy in Childcare (5th Edition)* the temporary exclusion measures will take into account the following factors:
 - How easily the infection can spread,
 - How long the person is likely to be infectious,
 - How severe the disease can be.Families and staff members will be advised of the additional exclusion measures on a case by case basis according to the nature of the disease and the severity of the outbreak.
 - **Medical advice:**

In the event of an outbreak staff members will obtain medical advice, ideally from a public health authority, to determine the appropriate exclusion measures. Families will be notified of the medical advice and the temporary exclusion conditions.

- **Medical clearance:**
Children and/or staff members who are absent due to any illness during an outbreak will be required to obtain a medical certificate declaring them fit to attend school/work *prior* to returning to the classroom.
Any children/staff members showing any of the signs associated with the illness experiencing an outbreak (even the milder symptoms) may be asked to leave the premises and not permitted to return until a medical certificate has been provided demonstrating that they are fit to attend school/work.
- **Testing:**
Where medical tests can determine the presence of the illness associated with the outbreak, the centre reserves the right to require that the results of these tests form part of the medical clearance for a child or staff member to return to school/work.
- **Hygiene:**
Staff members will follow the procedures outlined in the Hygiene Policy and Cleaning Policy to ensure that the physical environment is decontaminated to the best of our ability in order to avoid the spread of infection.

Linkage to other policies

Cleaning Policy
Hygiene Policy
Illness Policy
Immunisation Policy
Occupational Health and Safety Policy
Pandemic Policy

Sourcing

National Regulations: Regulations 77, 168
Staying Healthy 5th Edition
National Health and Medical Research Council.

Development date

1/06/2019

Next Review Due

1/06/2020

Approved by

Barbara Langford _____

SA Montessori Pre-school centres include:

Cedars Montessori Pre-school

Chancery Lane Montessori Pre-school
Jescott Montessori Pre-school
Lilliput Village Montessori Pre-school
Little Oxford Montessori
Rosemont House Montessori

Review history:

Date	Policy satisfactory	Policy amended	Comments	Next review due: