



Infectious Diseases Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The aim of this policy is to provide clear guidelines and procedure to follow when a child attending a service administered by Annie's and Babysitting Agency shows symptoms of an infectious disease or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease. As well as managing and minimising the spread of infectious diseases, illness and infections.

Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency is committed to:

- Providing a safe environment for all children, staff and people participating in programs and services provided by Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency.
- Responding to the needs of the child or adult who presents with symptoms of an infectious disease or infestation while attending the agency.
- Complying with current exclusion schedules and guidelines set by the Department of Health.
- Providing up-to-date information and resources for families and staff regarding protection of all children from infectious diseases, immunisation programs and management of infestations.

Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency supports the Immunise Australia Program and National Immunisation Program (NIP) which is currently recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and supported by the Commonwealth Government. All educators and nannies at services administered by Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency are committed to preventing the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases through simple hygiene practices such as handwashing, effective cleaning procedures, monitoring immunisation records and complying with recommended exclusion guidelines and timeframes for children and educators and staff.

This policy applies to the Agency Director (Approved Provider), educators, nannies, volunteers, parents or guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities or services provided by Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency including during off site excursions and activities.

Infectious diseases are common in children. An approved service must take reasonable steps to prevent the spread of infectious diseases at the service and ensure that the parent or guardian, authorised nominee or emergency contact of each child enrolled at the service is notified of the occurrence of an infectious disease as soon as possible. The service must have policies and procedures in place for dealing with infectious diseases. The agency has a duty of care to ensure that everyone attending the service is provided with a high level of protection during all hours that the service is in operation. Protection can include:

- Notifying children, families and educators or staff when an excludable illness or disease is detected at the service.
- Complying with relevant health department exclusion guidelines.
- Increasing educator and nannies awareness of cross-infection through physical contact with others.
- Immunisation status will be recorded on enrolment form

NO JAB, NO PLAY

The Government's No Jab No Play laws require all children to be age-appropriately immunised before enrolment can be confirmed. Confirmation of places is finalised after the correct documentation (Immunisation History Statement) has been assessed that the child is up to date or that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule if they have fallen

behind with their vaccinations, or that the child has a medical reason not to be vaccinated or that the child has been assessed as being eligible for a 16 week grace period.

RELATED LEGISLATION

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001
- Health Records Act 2001
- No Jab, No Play legislation
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Standard 2.1: Each child's health is promoted
 - Element 2.1.1: Each child's health needs are supported
 - Element 2.1.3: Effective hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
 - Element 2.1.4: Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines
 - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected
 - Element 2.3.1: Children are adequately supervised at all times
 - Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury
 - Element 2.3.3: Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities
 - Standard 6.2: Families are supported in their parenting role and their values and beliefs about child rearing are respected
 - Standard 6.3: The service collaborates with other organisations and service providers to enhance children's learning and wellbeing
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009

DEFINITIONS

Exclusion: Inability to attend or participate in the program at the service.

Illness: Any sickness and/or associated symptoms that affect the child's normal participation in the program at the service.

Immunisation status: The extent to which a child has been immunised in relation to the recommended immunisation schedule.

Infection: The invasion and multiplication of micro-organisms in bodily tissue.

Infestation: The lodgement, development and reproduction of arthropods (such as head lice), either on the surface of the body of humans or animals, or in clothing.

Infectious disease: A disease that can be spread, for example, by air, water or interpersonal contact. An infectious disease is designated by a health authority a disease that would require the infected person to be excluded from an education and care service.

Medication: Any substance, as defined in the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Cth), that is administered for the treatment of an illness or medical condition.

Pediculosis: Infestation of head lice that is transmitted by having head-to-head contact with another person who has head lice. Pediculosis does not contribute the spread of any infectious diseases and outbreaks of this condition are common in schools and childcare facilities.

Recommended minimum exclusion period: The period recommended by the Department of Health for excluding any person from attending a children's service to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through interpersonal contact.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Approved Provider (Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency) is responsible for:

- Ensuring that if there is an occurrence of an infectious disease within the agency, reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of that infectious disease (Regulation 88(1)).
- Ensuring that where there is an occurrence of an infectious disease, a parent/guardian, authorised nominee or emergency contact of each child at the service that has been in contact with the infectious disease is notified of the occurrence as soon as is practicable.
- Supporting the educators or nannies within the agency to implement the requirements of the recommended minimum exclusion periods.
- Ensuring information about the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule is displayed and is available to all stakeholders
- Conducting a thorough inspection of each location and consulting with educators or staff to assess any risks by identifying the hazards and potential sources of infection to educators or staff and children.
- Ensuring there are sufficient resources available for educators or nannies and parents or guardians in relation to the identification and management of infectious diseases and infestations.
- Keeping informed about current information and research, ensuring that any changes to the exclusion table or immunisation schedule are communicated to educators or staff and parents or guardians in a timely manner.

Educators and nannies are responsible for:

- Encouraging parents or guardians to notify the service if their child has an infectious disease or infestation.
- Observing signs and symptoms of children who may appear unwell and informing the Agency Director
- Providing access to information and resources for parents or guardians to assist in the identification and management of infectious diseases and infestations.
- Monitoring any symptoms in children that may indicate the presence of an infectious disease and taking appropriate measures to minimise cross-infection.
- Complying with the Hygiene Policy of the service.
- Maintaining confidentiality at all times.

Parents and guardians are responsible for:

- Informing the service if their child has an infectious disease or has been in contact with a person who has an infectious disease.
- Providing accurate and current information regarding the immunisation status of their child/ren when they enrol, and informing the service of any subsequent changes to this while they are enrolled at the service.
- Complying with the recommended minimum exclusion periods.
- Regularly checking their child's hair for head lice or lice eggs, regularly inspecting all household members and treating any infestations as necessary.
- Notifying the service if head lice or lice eggs have been found in their child's hair and when treatment was commenced.
- Complying with the Hygiene Policy when in attendance at the service.