Infectious Diseases Policy

to be read with Child and Staff Immunisation Policy

The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre aims to minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children, their families and staff by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or who are too ill to attend the Centre.

The centre will use National Health and Medical Research Council. Staying Healthy in Child Care. 4th edition. Commonwealth of Australia 2005. Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion (attached to this policy) to exclude children and staff and inform parents of exclusion and non exclusion periods.

To minimise the spread of infectious diseases between everyone associated with our service, we will inform the local public health unit of the following conditions:

• Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib);
• Hepatitis A;
• Hepatitis B (recent illness only);
• Measles;
• Meningococcal infection;
• Parvovirus B19 (if 2 or more cases);
• Pertussis;
• Roseola (if two or more children in one group are ill);
• Scarlet fever; and
• T B.

If a child develops symptoms while at The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre we will:

• Isolate the child from other children.
• Ensure the child is comfortable and supervised by staff.
• Contact the child’s parent/guardian. If this person is unavailable we will contact the next nominated family person. We will inform you of the child’s condition and ask for the family member to pick him up as quickly as possible.
• Ensure all bedding and clothing which has been used by the child washed as per recommended guidelines in Staying Healthy in Child Care – 4th Ed. These items will be washed separately and if possible aired dry in the sun.
• Ensure all toys used by the child are washed.
• Provide information in home languages to the best of our ability.
• Inform all Centre families of the presence of an infectious disease.
• Ensure confidentiality of any personal of health related information obtained by the Centre staff in related to any Centre family.
Staff
If a staff member has been unable to attend the Centre because of an infectious illness the person must provide a doctors certificate which specifically states the child/staff member is well enough to return to the Centre.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend that staff should be immunised against:

- Hepatitis A.
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR).
- Childcare staff born during or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have antibodies for rubella, require vaccination.
- Varicella, if they have not previously been infected with chickenpox.
- Pertussis.

Although the risk is low, staff who care for children with intellectual disabilities should seek advice about hepatitis B immunisation if the children are unimmunised.

Legislative Requirements

**Federal**
- Workplace Health and Safety Regulations 1995
- National Childcare Accreditation Council

**Victoria**
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- The Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2006

Who is affected by this policy?
Children, families, staff and visitors

Sources

**Federal**


**Victoria**
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- The Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2006

Review will be conducted by:
- The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre staff
- Families

Policy created date 1\textsuperscript{st} March 2012
Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

Children who are unwell should stay home from schools, pre-schools and child care centres.

Definition of ‘Contacts’ will vary according to disease. Please refer to specific Fact Sheets for definition of ‘Contacts’. (Fact sheets are listed in the contents pages of the manual).

**Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)**

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours. *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Campylobacter**

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours

*Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Candidiasis** See ‘Thrush’

**Chickenpox (Varicella)**

Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in unimmunised children and less in immunised children. Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded.

**CMV (Cytomegalovirus infection)**

Exclusion is NOT necessary. *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Cryptosporidium infection**

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours. *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Diarrhoea (No organism identified)**

Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours. *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Diphtheria**

Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least 2 negative throat swabs, the first swab not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics followed by another swab 48 hours later.

Exclude contacts that live in the same house 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

*Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Glandular fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)**
Exclusion is NOT necessary *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Hand, foot and mouth disease**
Exclude until all blisters have dried. *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)**
Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days.10

*Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Head lice (Pediculosis)**
Exclusion is NOT necessary if effective treatment is commenced prior to the next day at child care (ie the child doesn’t need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected).

*Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Hepatitis A**
Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before seven days after the onset of jaundice. *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Hepatitis B**
Exclusion is NOT necessary *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Hepatitis C**
Exclusion is NOT necessary *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*

**Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)**
Exclusion is not necessary if the person is developmentally capable of maintaining hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission.

If the person is unable to comply with these practices they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered by a dressing where possible. *Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.*
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)

Exclusion is NOT necessary. If the person is severely immunocompromised, they will be vulnerable to other people’s illnesses. \textit{Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded}.

Hydatid disease

Exclusion is NOT necessary \textit{Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded}.

Impetigo (school sores)

Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing. \textit{Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded}.

Influenza and influenza-like illnesses

Exclude until well \textit{Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded}.

Legionnaires’ disease

Exclusion is NOT necessary \textit{Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded}.

Leprosy

Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority

\textit{Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded}.

Measles

Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash

Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded. Non-immunised contacts of a case are to be excluded from child care until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case, unless immunised within 72 hours of first contact during the infectious period with the first case.

\textit{All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case.}

Meningitis (bacterial)

Exclude until well and has received appropriate antibiotics

\textit{Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded}. 

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Exclusion Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meningitis (viral)</td>
<td>Exclude until well Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal infection</td>
<td>Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molluscum contagiosum</td>
<td>Exclusion is NOT necessary Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>Exclude for nine days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner) Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norovirs</td>
<td>Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parvovirus infection (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)</td>
<td>Exclusion is NOT necessary Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis See ‘Whooping Cough’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Syncytial virus</td>
<td>Exclusion is NOT necessary Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringworm/tinea</td>
<td>Exclude until the day after appropriate antifungal treatment has commenced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roseola</td>
<td>Exclusion is NOT necessary Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross River virus</td>
<td>Exclusion is NOT necessary Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotavirus infection</td>
<td>Children are to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours Not excluded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rubella (German measles)
Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of the rash
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Salmonella infection
Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Scabies
Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Scarlet fever See ‘Streptococcal sore throat’

School sores See ‘Impetigo’

Shigella infection
Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)
Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Thrush (candidiasis)
Exclusion is NOT necessary Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Toxoplasmosis
Exclusion is NOT necessary Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Tuberculosis (TB)
Exclude until medical certificate is produced from an appropriate health authority
Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Typhoid, Paratyphoid
Exclude until medical certificate is produced from appropriate health authority
Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities
Varicella See ‘Chickenpox’

Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)

Children are to be excluded from the centre until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours. Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Warts

Exclusion is NOT necessary Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.

Whooping cough (pertussis)

Exclude until five days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment or for 21 days from the onset of coughing12

Contacts that live in the same house as the case and have received less than three doses of pertussis vaccine are to be excluded from the centre until they have had 5 days of an appropriate course of antibiotics. If antibiotics have not been taken, these contacts must be excluded for 21 days after their last exposure to the case while the person was infectious.

Worms

Exclude if loose bowel motions present Exclusion of Contacts - Not excluded.