



COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHILD CARE CENTRE

Covid 19 Infection Control Policy

RATIONALE & POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

College Community Child Care Centre understands it has a duty of care to ensure that all persons are provided with a healthy and safe environment in which to play and work. To this end all educators/staff will be fully informed about their responsibilities to implement and adhere to the service's health policies and procedures.

All children have the right to develop to their full potential in an environment which provides for their health, safety and wellbeing. Effective hygiene strategies and infection control practices assist services to protect all persons from, and minimise the potential risk of, communicable disease and illness. Experiences that promote basic hygiene and safety awareness assist children to become competent and independent, and develop valuable life skills.

The Education and Care Services National Law Act (WA) 2012 requires that the approved provider/nominated supervisor take reasonable care to protect children from foreseeable risk of harm, injury and infection.

Philosophy

The educators provide a safe and healthy environment that supports and nurtures warm trusting relationships promotes dignity and provides learning opportunities in relation to Child Protection. These environments will also make sure that children have a strong sense of wellbeing.

Legislation and Government Requirements

WA Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984

WA Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996

Education and Care Services National Law Act (WA) 2012

Education and Care Services National (WA) Regulations 2012

Children's needs

Healthy, safe, clean, hygienic environment in which to play and learn. Protection from infection, instruction about personal hygiene and safety.

Families' needs

Reassurance that health and safety standards are maintained at the service and their children are safe. To feel confident that their child's health, safety, wellbeing and development is assured.

Educator/Staff needs

Protection from infection, clean hygienic and safe environment, appropriate equipment to ensure high level of hygiene and safety, clear guidelines in relation to their duty of care.

Management needs

Staff to maintain appropriate levels of hygiene, safety and cleanliness to meet required standards; families to co-operate in keeping sick and infectious children away from the service.

NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK

Education and Care Services National Law Act (WA) 2012 – Schedule Part 6: s.167; s.179; Part 14: s.301(e)(f)(m)

Education and Care Services National Regulations (WA) 2012 – 77; 85; 86; 87; 88; 90; 93; 110;162; 168; 173 (2)(g)

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care Quality Area 2 – Children's Health and Safety; Standard 2.1.1; 2.2.2; 2.2

Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

POLICY STATEMENT:

The service is committed to provide quality education and care to all children and support families at all times. College Community Child Care Centre aims to promote a healthy and safe environment in which children will grow and learn about the world around them. The service is committed to protecting its stakeholders through the implementation and monitoring of simple hygiene, safety and infection control strategies. The application of preventative measures through an infection control process aims to prevent the spread of infections and will be followed by all people in the education and care service at all times. This policy applies to children, families, educators, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

Our service has effective risk management processes in place to identify any possible risks to our learning environment and practices related to COVID-19. We have implemented a combination of COVID-safe practices including:

STRATEGIES FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION:

- Mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for all staff
- Workplace attendance register for all staff, parents and visitors
- Wearing of face masks and other PPE (as required)
- Maintaining physical distancing of 1.5m
- Enhance ventilation in indoor spaces
- More lessons and activities outdoors
- Add hygiene practices to the curriculum
- Use of QR codes for all visitors to the service
- Regular communication with families and share information as required

Hygiene

- All educators/staff are required to observe and maintain high standards of hygiene in the provision of the education and care service.
- Educators/staff will be provided with training on COVID-19 infection control.
- The service will use detergent and hot water to clean except where the public health authority recommends a particular disinfectant for an outbreak.
- The service will provide a sanitising solution to further combat the spread of infection.
- Educators/staff will use colour coded sponges and cleaning cloths for cleaning different areas (eg: pink for kitchen bench tops, yellow for dishes), and will wear disposable gloves when cleaning high risk areas (eg; toilets) and dispose of them when finished.
- The service has access to laundry facilities that are adequate and appropriate for the needs of the service, and are located and maintained in a way that prevents unsupervised access by children.
- Each child will have their own bedding which will be washed at least once a week or after soiling. Educators will wear gloves and follow recommended procedures for dealing with a child's soiled bedding.
- Educators/staff will use separate face washers to wipe different children's faces and separate tissues to wipe different children's noses. Tissues will be disposed of immediately after wiping a child's nose. Hand hygiene will be performed between each child after wiping noses and disposing of tissues.
- Educators will role model personal hygiene and discuss hygiene practices with children.
- The protocols of hygiene will be included in the child's program and staff will initiate discussion about these subjects with groups and individual children at appropriate times.

Hand Hygiene

- All employees, parents, children and visitors must wash their hands with soap and water or use the alcohol-based hand sanitiser provided upon arrival to the service
- All Staff must follow Handwashing procedures at all times
- Children are to be supervised when washing hands
- Educators will role model hand hygiene and provide consistent and continual supervision and instruction with children so that they may form strong positive hygiene habits.

- All Staff must follow food preparation and food handling procedures
- Hands must be washed thoroughly using soap and water after using the toilet
- Cover coughs and sneeze with hand or elbow

Cleanliness of toys and equipment

- All staff will ensure that every effort is made to maintain a high standard of hygiene in the provision of the education and care service.
- Toys, equipment and dress up clothes will be washed regularly in hot water and detergent, and one criteria for selecting new toys will be their ease to clean. Toys in the babies' room will not be shared in order to protect babies against the spread of infection. Educators will use a "Mouthed toys box" for immediate removal of mouthed toys. These will be washed daily.
- Surfaces including play/dining tables will be cleaned with detergent and hot water after each activity and all surfaces cleaned and sanitised thoroughly daily.
- Floors will be washed each day.
- Cushions will have removable covers that will be changed and washed regularly and when visibly dirty.
- Each child will be provided with their own eating utensils at each mealtime. These utensils will be washed in detergent and hot water after each use
- Information on hygiene principles and practices will be displayed in the reception area and drawn to the attention of all families on a regular basis.

Immunisation against COVID-19

- Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to immunise their child against covid-19.
- A record of the child's current immunisation status will be kept at the service. Parents/ Guardians are encouraged to provide updated Air statement records of immunisation to the Centre Director after their child has received further immunisations.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to advise staff when their child has recently had an update to their immunisation schedule so as Educators may monitor the child for adverse reactions.
- Children who are not vaccinated due to medical reasons, or do not have a complete vaccination record, or live with an immune deficiency or are receiving chemotherapy, may be excluded from care during outbreaks of covid-19 diseases in accordance with the National Health & Medical Research Council exclusion guidelines, even if their child appears well.
- The service will seek up to date information for parents and educators/staff on immunisation and will contact the public health unit if they have any questions regarding infectious diseases.
- All employees of the education and care service will need to have all mandated immunisations to continue to work at the service.

Exclusion of Children due to symptoms

- Children with temperatures 37.5 or above on arrival will not be able to attend childcare on that day. The temperature 37.5 degrees centigrade is the lower end of the range of temperatures classed as high by medical practitioners. Parent and child should remain outside on the veranda and staff will re-check the child's temperature after five minutes.
- Parents will be contacted to pick up their children who develop high temperatures through the day.
- Children who have mild cold-like and flu-like symptoms should remain at home.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

The following policies may be linked to this policy:

- Accidents, emergencies and first aid
- Educator/staff immunisation
- Healthy Eating and Food Handling
- Illness, Medical Conditions and Medication
- Maintenance of a Safe Environment
- Occupational Safety and Health
- Sun protection
- Supervision

LINKS TO PROCEDURES

The following procedures may be linked to this policy:

- Room checks and cleaning tasks
- Hand washing
- Bathroom/kitchen cleaning
- Sheet washing roster
- Procedure for cleaning toys, equipment, surfaces and floors

This policy is guided by:

Australian Government, local Public Health Units and the Regulatory Authority in WA – Education and Care Regulatory Unit COVID-19 preparation and response guidelines for early childhood services

Childcare Centre Desktop © 2022 – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy

FURTHER SOURCES:

All family resources – *Practices to reduce diseases and injury – washing and disinfecting toys* –
Reviewed 24/01/2022 from www.familymanagement.com/childcare/practices/washing.toys.practices.html

All family resources – *Practices to reduce diseases and injury – cleaning and disinfection* - Reviewed
24/01/2022, from www.familymanagement.com/childcare/practices/cleaning.practices.html

California Childcare Health Program – Department of Pesticide Regulation – *Health and safety Notes – Sanitize safely and effectively: bleach and alternatives in child care programs* – Reviewed 24/01/2022
from www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/healthandsafety/SanitizeSafely_En0709.pdf

Immunise Australia Program – *Understanding Childhood Immunisation Booklet* – Reviewed 24/01/2022
from <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>

Medicare Australia – *Australian Childhood Immunisation Register* – includes links to state/territory
government health departments and other relevant internet sites – Reviewed 24/01/2022 from
[www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-
register?utm_id=9](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register?utm_id=9)

National Health and Medical Research Council – *Staying Healthy in Child Care – 5th Edition 2012* –
Reviewed 24/01/2022,

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>

Safe Work Australia – *Industry information on Covid 19*– Reviewed 24/01/2022

<https://covid19.swa.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces>

Red Nose – *Immunisation* – Retrieved 24/01/2022, from <https://rednose.com.au/article/immunisation>

The Royal Children’s Hospital – *Child Care and Children’s Health an information sheet for parents (Sept 2008) – Hygiene and infection control* – Reviewed 24/01/2022, from
www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/ecconnections/CCH_P_Sept2008_English.pdf

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