

# Infectious Diseases and Infestation Policy

St Pius X OSHC service follows the guidelines for prevention of infectious diseases as outlined in the document 'Staying Healthy in Child Care'. Children suffering from infectious diseases will be excluded from OSHC for the length of time specified or on the written advice from the child's medical practitioner.

St Pius X OSHC will act to prevent the spread of infectious diseases/infestations by:

- Ensuring current information about infectious diseases is held at the service.
- Providing information to families regarding infectious diseases and exclusion from the service
- Providing appropriate hand washing facilities and supplies (as outlined in the Nutrition Policy).
- Encouraging effective hand washing techniques.
- Providing appropriate first aid supplies (as outlined in the Administration of First Aid Policy).
- Excluding children from the service who are suffering from an infectious disease (as per the guidelines in 'Staying Healthy in Child Care').
- Notifying families when an infectious disease has occurred at the service.
- Providing information about immunisation.

The director will be responsible for ensuring that the services practices and procedures minimise the spread of infection/infestation by:

- regularly cleaning all equipment.
- ensuring that there is no sharing of drinking/eating utensils.
- (in the case of head lice) removing soft furnishings (bean bags), washing the 'dress ups' and restricting access to them until the immediate risk passes.

In the event that a child is suspected of being infested with head lice:

- Parents will be notified as soon as possible (at least by the end of the day) and provided with information about treatment options.
- Information is available in "Staying Healthy in Child Care", 'You've Got What?', and pamphlets available from the Department of Health and Ageing on "Headlice treatment & protection".
- The parents need to be informed that the child will only be readmitted to care after approved and appropriate treatment has been administered.
- Isolation of children with head lice is not considered necessary. Educators will engage the group in activities that minimise head to head contact.
- Other families will be advised when there is an infestation of head lice within the service (eg notes in bags or poster on the door).
- Ensuring the service holds information on specific diseases and exclusion periods and this information is available to educators and families; and that the Staying Healthy in Child Care document and posters are accessible to educators at all times.
- Ensuring the service's documents are all current and available.
- Ensuring that any updates to the documents are made available to all educators in a timely fashion.
- Ensuring that information regarding the service's policy on exclusion of children with infectious diseases is made available to families in the family information pack, along with the recommendation that families keep children who are unwell at home.
- In the event that an educator suspects that a child arriving at the service is suffering from an infectious disease:
  - The educator will approach the director for a second opinion.

- If the director also suspects the child is suffering from an infectious disease, he/she will advise the person signing in the child that the child is suspected of suffering from an infectious disease and request that the child be removed from the service until a medical practitioner has determined that
  - the child is not suffering from an infectious disease
  - the child has completed the applicable exclusion period as outlined in the current edition of Staying Healthy in Child Care.
- In the event that an educator suspects that a child in attendance at the service is suffering from an infectious disease:
  - The child will be withdrawn from the main group and taken to a separate area, where the educator will further assess the child's current health condition and maintain surveillance whilst making the child comfortable.
  - The educator will refer to Staying Healthy in Child Care for details on symptoms the child is presenting with (but will not officially make a diagnosis, but can however present the symptoms to the family and indicate that other children with similar symptoms have been diagnosed with a similar condition).
  - An educator will contact the family or, if unsuccessful, the emergency contacts in order of priority and advise the emergency contact of the child's condition and request that the emergency contact make immediate arrangements to collect the child from the service.
  - In an event where the child does not have to be collected immediately, precautions as described in Staying Healthy in Child Care will be implemented.
- In the event that a child with an infectious disease has been in attendance at the service, the director will:
  - ensure that the families of children in attendance that day, or any other previous day the child has attended and may have been infectious, are notified as soon as practicable. Confidentiality will be maintained and only the name and nature of the infectious disease will be disclosed (see Confidentiality Policy)
  - ensure that information regarding the infectious disease is available to families
  - ensure information regarding the occurrence and nature of the infectious disease is prominently displayed next to the day sheet
  - ensure that documentation regarding the infectious disease and the actions taken by the service comply with Regulations.
  - Report any notifiable disease as required.