

	<p>ALPINE CHILDREN'S SERVICES INC</p>	<p>Approved: May 06 Last Review: July 09 Review Date: May '10</p>
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POLICY NAME	ILLNESS
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<p>REGULATORY:</p> <p>SOURCES & PROCEDURAL REFERENCES:</p>	<p>Alpine Children's Services Committee of Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHS Act 2004 (Victoria) • Food Safety Act 1988 (Victoria) • Children's Services Regulations (Vic) 2009 • Staying Healthy in Child Care, NHMRC 2005 • National Standards for Family Day Care 2.5, 2.6 & 2.11 • ACS Control of Infection Policy and Procedure
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POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

Carers will minimise the spread of infectious diseases between children, other children and carers, by conforming to National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) requirements for exclusion of children with infectious diseases and other legislative requirements.

OBJECTIVES/PRINCIPLES:

Exclusion of infectious children significantly reduces the risk of the spread of diseases to other healthy children and carers. Exclusion periods are recommended by the NHMRC, based on the time a child is infectious to others. Contacts of certain infectious diseases may at the discretion of the local Public Health Unit, be excluded for their own safety. There are circumstances where a child is too ill to attend child care and needs to stay home for treatment and recovery. There are a number of diseases that are notifiable under the Public Health Act 1991 to the local Public Health Unit.

PROCEDURE

Practices:

To minimise spread of infectious diseases between children and other healthy children, child carers and visitors, carers should:

- **Under the Health Act 1958, exclude from care and notify the local Public Health Unit** and provide details of any known or suspected person (children or children's centre staff) with of any of the following vaccine preventable diseases:
 - Diphtheria
 - Measles
 - Mumps
 - Pertussis (whooping cough)
 - Poliomyelitis
 - Rubella (German measles)
 - Tetanus
- **Exclude children, staff, volunteers or visitors** who have infectious diseases other than listed above in accordance with the NHMRC Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion. Also seek advice from your local Public Health Unit in other cases of infectious disease, or if a child or staff member has a serious infectious illness such as meningitis, food poisoning, gastroenteritis, streptococcal infection, tuberculosis, hepatitis A.
- **Under the Food Act (VIC) 1988** exclude staff from food handling duties who have pustular infections (such as boils) of the skin that cannot be covered or who are ill from gastroenteritis or hepatitis A.
- **Exclude children and staff who:**
 - are acutely ill and may need to see a doctor,
 - are too ill to participate in normal children's centre activities,
 - may require extra supervision to the detriment of the care and safety of the child or other children,
 - who are ill from gastroenteritis or hepatitis A,
 - have symptoms or signs of a possible infectious illness.
- **Request from the Public Health Unit a clearance** to attend for children and staff who have had diphtheria, hepatitis A, polio, tuberculosis, typhoid or paratyphoid infection.
- **Ensure all staff and persons visiting or normally residing in the home conform to all infectious disease policies.**
- **Advise families that when children have commenced treatment with a medication,** the child should not attend care for at least 24 hours to ensure the child is recovering and is not having side effects from the medication.
- **Staff shall monitor the health and wellbeing of each child;** and in the event a child becomes unwell, the parent, guardian or emergency carer, shall be contacted and requested to collect the child as soon as possible.
- **In the event a child parent, guardian or emergency carer is unable to be contacted,** and the child's condition warrants, an ambulance may be called to transport the child to hospital. This shall be at the parents or guardian's expense.

- **In the event a child is infectious**, they may be relocated to the office until they can be collected. (This will occur only if office staff are available).
- **If a child or staff member has been unable to attend care because of an infectious illness**, when the child or staff member has fully recovered ask the family or staff member to obtain a certificate from their doctor which specifically states the child or staff member is not infectious and is able to attend care or return to work.
- **Be aware that conflicts and difficulties may arise when negotiating with families, and interpreting medical certificates, due to:**
 - families finding exclusion requirements difficult because of pressures to meet working and other personal commitments,
 - families may present doctors' certificates of fitness of a child to attend care that the carer or Scheme Coordinator considers inconsistent with the situation at the time.
- **Refer difficult or unresolved situations** to the local Public Health Unit, or discuss with the child's doctor (with the parent's or legal guardian's consent), before accepting the child into care, difficult situations in relation to infectious diseases should be referred to the Public Health Unit.