# **ILLNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

## POLICY STATEMENT:

For recommendations for immunisation please use the following link:

<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/recommendations>﻿

Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care will aim to provide a safe and hygienic environment that will promote the health and wellbeing of our children. We will take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through the implementation of procedures that are consistent with ACT Health guidelines. All children and adults in Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care who display symptoms of a disease, will be considered as infectious and these procedures will be consistently applied across Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care.

PROCEDURE:

Children with infectious diseases will be excluded from Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care for the period recommended by the ACT Health.

Where there is an outbreak of an infectious disease, each enrolled child’s parent or guardian will be notified within 24 hours under ordinary circumstances. Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care will take care when issuing the notification to ensure it is not done in a manner that is prejudicial or names any particular child.

Parents /guardians are advised upon enrolment and in regular reminders not to bring sick children to Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care and to arrange a prompt collection of children who are unwell. The care needs of a sick child cannot be met without dramatically reducing the general level of supervision of the other children, or risking children’s health.

When a child becomes ill at Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care, all the care and consideration will be given to comfort the child and to minimise the risk of cross infection until the child is collected by Parents will be informed about the illness and infectious diseases policy on enrolment.
A regularly updated copy of the Department of Health guidelines on infectious diseases from ACT Health website will be kept on the noticeboard and website.

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/845267/20160322-InfectiousDiseasesProcedures.pdf>A child or adult will be considered sick if he/she:

* sleeps at unusual times, is lethargic.
* has a fever over 38o.
* is crying constantly from discomfort.
* vomits or has diarrhoea.
* Needs constant one to one care.
* has symptoms of an infectious disease

If a child is unwell at home, parents are not permitted to bring the child to Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care. Children who appear unwell when being signed in by their parent/ guardian will not be permitted to be left at Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care.

If a child becomes ill or develops symptoms at Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care, parents will be contacted to collect the child. Where the parents are not available, emergency contacts will be called to ensure the child is removed from Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care promptly.

The child who is ill will be comforted, cared for and placed in a quiet isolated area with adult supervision until the child’s parent or other authorised contact takes them home.

In the event that the child exhibits symptoms relating to a particular illness in the midst of a Pandemic (such as Covid 19), appropriate steps as set out in the Pandemic policy are to be followed.

During a fever, natural methods will be employed to bring the child’s temperature down until the parents arrive or help is sought. Permission may be given over the phone to give the child paracetamol until the parent gets to Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care to collect the child. If a child’s temperature is very high, cannot be brought down and parents cannot be contacted an ambulance will be called.

If a Staff member becomes ill or develops symptoms at Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care they must leave Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care and seek rest or medical attention.

The Responsible Person will organise a suitable Staff replacement as soon as possible.

Infection Control Procedures

All Staff dealing with open sores, cuts and bodily fluids with any child or adult will wear disposable gloves.

Staff with cuts, open wounds or skin disease such as dermatitis will cover their wounds and wear disposable gloves.

Disposable gloves will be properly and safely discarded and Staff will wash their hands after doing so.

If a child has an open wound it will be covered with a waterproof dressing and securely attached.

If bodily fluid or blood gets on the skin, but there is no cut or puncture, it will be washed away with soapy water.

In the event of exposure through cuts or chapped skin Staff will promptly wash away the fluid, encourage bleeding and wash in cold or tepid soapy water.

In the event of exposure to the mouth, the affected person will be directed to promptly spit it out and rinse their mouth with water several times.

In the event of exposure to the eyes, Staff will promptly rinse gently with cold or tepid tap water or saline solution.

Any exposure will be reported to the Nominated Supervisor and Management Committee to ensure proper follow up procedures occur.

Note: Hot water may coagulate the blood and protect any virus from the soap or disinfectant. It is best to use cold or tepid water temperatures in all cleaning processes.

Any soiled clothing will be handled using disposable gloves. Clothing will be placed and sealed in a plastic bag for the parents to take home.

Any blood or bodily fluid spills will be cleaned up immediately using gloves and the area fully disinfected. Cloths used in cleaning will be wrapped in plastic bags and properly disposed of in  accordance with infection control guidelines.

Management of Infectious Disease Outbreak

Children and Staff will be excluded from Macgregor Primary School Outside School Hours Care if they are ill or  show any sign/ symptoms  of any contagious illness.

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