



Illness, Infectious Disease and Emergency Care Policy

Authorisation	DSCC Management Committee
Review Date	September 2023
Approved Date	26 September 2023
Next Review Date	September 2026 (3 years) or sooner if required
Relevant Documents	<p>Anaphylaxis Policy</p> <p>Asthma Policy</p> <p>Administration of Medication and First Aid Policy</p> <p>Occupational Health and Safety Policy</p> <p>Privacy and Confidentiality Policy</p> <p>Excursions and Service Events Policy</p> <p>Food Safety and Hygiene Policy</p>

AUTHORISATION

This policy was reviewed and adopted by the Dawson Street Child Care Cooperative (DSCC) Management Committee at its meeting on the Approved Date defined above.

POLICY STATEMENT

DSCC is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children and staff while at DSCC.
- Preventing injuries and trauma to children.
- Responding to the needs of the child if a child is injured, becomes ill, or is traumatised while attending the Centre.
- Preventing the spread of illness through simple hygiene practices and monitoring immunisation records
- Complying with all legislative requirements, including the exclusion requirements for infectious diseases set out in the DSCC Exclusion Table (see Appendix 2 of this policy).

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Management Committee, the Director, all staff including educators, relievers and agency staff, parents/guardians, children, volunteers and students attending the programs and activities at DSCC, including during offsite excursions and activities.

In some cases, it will be appropriate to refer to specific policies for guidance, such as the *DSCC Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy*, *DSCC Asthma Policy* and *DSCC Anaphylaxis Policy*.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- *Education and Care Service National Law Act 2010*
- *Education and Care Service National Regulations 2011*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009*
- School Exclusion Table, which is based on Schedule 7 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009*.
- *WorkSafe Victoria Compliance Code: First aid in the workplace (2008)*
- Department of Health & Ageing - National Immunisation Program Schedule.
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety*
- Standard 2.1: Each child's health is promoted
 - Element 2.1.1: Each child's health needs are supported
 - Element 2.1.3: Effective hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
 - Element 2.1.4: Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 3: Physical Environment*
- Standard 3.1: The design and location of the premises is appropriate for the operation of a service
 - Element 3.1.2: Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management*
- Standard 7.3: Administrative systems enable the effective management of a quality service
 - Element 7.3.1: Records and information are stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality, are available from the service and are maintained in accordance with legislative requirements
 - Element 7.3.2: Administrative systems are established and maintained to ensure effective operation of the service.

DEFINITIONS

Ability to cope in group care: The ability of a child to participate in the program without requiring an unmanageable level of staff time due to illness or injury. The program includes Routine Excursions and children who are unable to cope with excursion activities will be deemed unable to cope in group care for the purposes of this policy.

AIDS: Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome.

Centre: The principal location, operations and management of the child care service provided by DSCC.

First aid: The provision of initial care in response to an illness or injury. It generally consists of a series of techniques to preserve life, protect a person (particularly if unconscious), prevent a condition worsening and promote recovery. First aid training should be delivered by approved first aid providers, and a list is published on the ACECQA website: www.acecqa.gov.au/qualifications/approved-first-aid-qualifications

Hazard: A source or situation with a potential for harm in terms of human injury or ill health, damage to property, damage to the environment or a combination of these.

HIV: The virus that causes AIDS, which is known as Human Immuno Deficiency Virus.

Hepatitis: This is a general term for inflammation of the liver, which can be caused by alcohol, drugs (including prescribed medications) or viral infections. There are several types of viral hepatitis namely A, B, C, D, E and G.

Illness: Any sickness and/or associated symptoms that affect the child's normal participation in the program.

Immunisation status: The extent to which a child has been immunised in relation to the recommended immunisation schedule.

Incident: Any unplanned event resulting in or having potential for injury, ill health, damage or other loss.

Infection Control: The name given to a combination of basic hygiene measures to prevent the spread of infection.

Injury: Any physical damage to the body caused by violence or an incident.

Medication: Any substance, as defined in the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* (Cth), that is administered for the treatment of an illness or medical condition.

Medical management plan: A document that has been prepared and signed by a doctor that describes symptoms, causes, clear instructions on action and treatment for the child's specific medical condition, and includes the child's name and a photograph of the child. An example of this is the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan.

Medical emergency: An injury or illness that is acute and poses an immediate risk to a person's life or long-term health.

Minor accidents: Accidents where a cut, scratch, bruise is small, does not require medical attention and does not affect the consciousness of the child.

Minor incident: An incident that results in an injury that is small and does not require medical attention.

Notifiable incident: An incident involving workplace health and safety that is required by

law to be reported to WorkSafe Victoria. Notification is required for incidents that result in death or serious injury/illness, or dangerous occurrences. For a complete list of incidents that must be reported to WorkSafe Victoria, refer to the Guide to Incident Notification on the WorkSafe Victoria website: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au

Secretary (Exclusion table): Department of Health representative authorised to confer decisions in regard to infectious diseases.

Serious incident: An incident resulting in the death of a child, or an injury, trauma or illness for which the attention of a registered medical practitioner, emergency services or hospital is sought or should have been sought. This also includes an incident in which a child appears to be missing, cannot be accounted for, is removed from the service in contravention of the regulations or is mistakenly locked in/out of the service premises (Regulation 12).

Serious medical emergency situations or accidents: Accidents or situations where the child requires medical attention, and/or which affects the consciousness of the child.

Trauma: An emotional wound or shock that often has long-lasting effects or any physical damage to the body caused by violence or an incident.

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis

Viruses such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis are health issues which concern everyone. HIV/AIDS and hepatitis have aroused community anxiety, often because of misinformation and a lack of understanding.

- DSCC will endorse a caring and supportive approach to this issue
- help to inform parents and staff about the facts of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis
- provide a safe environment for staff, children and parents.

No employee, prospective employee, employer, parent/guardian or child will be discriminated against or harassed on the grounds of having, or being assumed to have, a HIV or hepatitis infection.

Information regarding HIV/AIDS and the hepatitis status of any child, parent/guardian, or staff member will remain confidential and all reasonable steps will be taken to protect the privacy of that person (see “Confidentiality” below).

Upon request, DSCC will provide access to information for parents/guardians, the Management Committee, the staff and volunteers involved in the operation of DSCC that includes:

- The basic facts on preventative measures for HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.
- Where they may access further information.
- Support services as required

PROCEDURES

DSCC will:

- Provide standard precautions for infection control.
- Train educators in appropriate procedures in identifying and managing cases of illness in children
- Ensure First Aid officers are available to support staff with a suspected ill child. The number of First Aid officers will depend on the size and layout of each Centre
- Inform relevant families should there be an occurrence of an infectious disease at the Centre.
- Request a doctor's clearance for any child which has been diagnosed with an infectious illness before they return to the Centre
- Ensure any infectious disease is communicated to all families and visitors within 48 hours of being notified.
- Ensure that children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the service.

Covid-19

For information specific to Covid-19, please refer to DSCC's COVID-19 Policy, COVID-19 Vaccination Policy, COVID-19 Safety Plan, and the most up-to-date Victorian regulations on the coronavirus website at: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/managing-illness-schools-and-ecec-parents#1-if-a-child-is-unwell-even-with-the-mildest-of-symptoms-they-are-strongly-recommended-to-stay-at-home>.

Please note: Dawson Street may, at its discretion, require your child to be subject to exclusion requirements which exceed those issued by the government. This could include situations where a member of your children's household and/or those which you/the child has ongoing close contact with are subject to isolation requirements but the child is not.

What will happen if a child is ill or injured at the Centre?

- Children will be excluded from attending the Centre in the following circumstances:
 - When the Director, or their delegate, determines that a child cannot cope in group care or require unmanageable level of staff time due to illness or injury;
 - When a child has a fever (38 degrees or higher);
 - When a person has been diagnosed with an illness as set out in the DSCC Exclusion Table (Appendix 2 in this policy);
 - When the Director, or their delegate, considers it likely that a person has an illness set out in the DSCC Exclusion Table (Appendix 2 in this policy).
 - Staff will notify the Director if they believe a child should be sent home from the Centre due to illness or injury.

- In making a decision to send a child home, the Director, in consultation with staff, shall take reasonable steps to establish the symptoms of illness, including the symptoms of any of the infectious diseases listed in the DSCC Exclusion Table (Appendix 2 in this policy).
- If the child shows any of the symptoms of the infectious diseases listed in the DSCC Exclusion Table, parents/guardians will be requested by staff to collect their child within an hour of notification. Emergency numbers are referred to if the parents cannot be contacted and the child needs urgent medical treatment, or if the child has not been collected within an hour.
- The child's medical management plan will be implemented, where appropriate.
- An ill or injured child will be kept comfortable and under observation until the parent/guardian or person authorised to collect the child from the Centre arrives to collect the child. If it is believed the child is infectious, every effort will be made to separate the child from the rest of the children.
- Information relating to the symptoms shown by the child, will be recorded by staff in the accident, injury and illness book.
- The Centre can refer to the Community Health Centre in Brunswick to determine whether it is safe for a child to remain at the Centre or any other situation where they feel the need to consult with medical professionals. Note the Community Health Centre has agreed to be the medical resource for Child Care Centres in Brunswick.
- The staff will notify the Director or Assistant Director of any illness or injury that requires treatment by a medical practitioner or an admission to hospital. The nominated representative will notify the regional DEECD office as soon as practicable.
- Staff will ensure that a parent/guardian of the child is notified as soon as is practicable, but not later than 24 hours after the occurrence, if the child is involved in any incident, injury, trauma or illness while at the service (Regulation 86).

Parents and guardians should:

- Follow the exclusions set out in the DSCC Exclusion Table (Appendix 2 in this policy).
- Notify the Centre if a child has been administered any medicine (including Panadol) prior to attending the Centre.
- Notify the Centre if their child has an infectious disease.
- Give authorisation for an ambulance and/or medical/hospital facility to be sought by the Centre in the case of a medical emergency, prior to their child commencing at DSCC (Regulation 161(1)).
- Be responsible for all costs associated with an ambulance service called to attend their child at the Centre.
- Notify the service by telephone, email or by submission through an appropriate software application, when their child will be absent from their regular program.

- Notify staff/educators if there is a change in the condition of their child's health, or if there have been any recent accidents or incidents that may impact on the child's care e.g. any bruising or head injuries.

Procedures for children returning to DSCC following illness

- Sick children should not return to the Centre until:
 - completely well and able participate in the program without creating unreasonable demands on staff to the detriment of other children, or
 - the DSCC Exclusion Table exclusion table requirements are met (Appendix 2 in this policy); or
 - a medical certificate is produced stating that they are well.
- If parents are requested to consult a doctor for their child, a medical certificate stating that the child is able to continue attending the Centre will be required.
- In cases where a child has suffered a fever (38 degrees or higher), they cannot return to the Centre for 24 hours from their last dose of paracetamol to allow their body time to recover and ensure they are completely well before they return.
- It is important that staff are not pressured by parents to accept a sick child. Should a child be returned to the Centre while still ill in a way which requires exclusion (as set out in this policy including when a child repeatedly suffers a fever), the Director can determine that the child be excluded for a further 48 hours or the scheduled exclusion, whichever is higher. The Director will immediately notify the Chair of the Management Committee when this occurs.

Procedures for particular illnesses

If the Director believes a child to have one of the following illnesses, the Director will notify the parent or guardian of the child and the Department of Health:

- Pertussis; or
- Poliomyelitis; or
- Measles; or
- Mumps; or
- Rubella; or
- Meningococcal C

The staff will:

- Ensure that the DSCC Exclusion Table (Appendix 2 of this policy) is displayed in a prominent position within the Centre.
- Adhere to the exclusion requirements for infectious diseases, as set out in the DSCC Exclusion Table.
- Notify parent/guardians of each child at the Centre any outbreak of an infectious disease within the Centre as soon as practicable by placing a notice on the door at the entry to the Centre.
- Request parent/guardians to notify DSCC if their child has an infectious disease.

The parents/guardians will:

- Notify the Centre if their child has an infectious disease.

Procedures for staff illness

- To protect all children and other staff from cross-infection, staff at the Centre must also adhere to the same exclusion rulings in relation to infectious diseases as the children.

Procedure relating to immunisation of children

- Effective from 1 January 2016, DSCC requires the immunisation of all children in care at the Centre in accordance with amendments made to the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.
- The Centre will advise the parents of children who are not immunised on enrolment, that during an outbreak of any of the infectious diseases listed in the Immunisation Calendar attached as Appendix 1, children who are not immunised against the particular disease will not be able to attend.
- In accordance with amendments made to the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, effective from 1 January 2016, parents must provide documentation at enrolment that shows their child:
 - is fully vaccinated for their age, or;
 - is on a recognised catch-up schedule if their child has fallen behind with their vaccinations; or
 - has a medical reason not to be vaccinated.
- The Centre will keep children's enrolment records up-to-date, including the immunisation status of each child.

Procedures for handling minor accidents

Staff will:

- Notify the Director if appropriate.
- Provide first aid as required.
- Record all details, including the treatment given, in the accident, injury and illness book.
- Notify the parent/guardian either immediately after the accident, or when they collect their child from the Centre, depending on the severity of the accident and the emotional state of the child.
- Review the cause of any incident, injury or illness and taking appropriate action to remove the cause if required, for example, removing a nail found protruding from climbing equipment or retraining staff to adhere more closely to the service's Hygiene Policy.

Procedures for handling serious emergency medical situations or accidents

Staff will:

- Immediately notify the Director or their delegate.
- Notify parents/guardians immediately of any serious medical emergency or accident concerning their child, and make arrangements for the child to be collected from DSCC as soon as possible.
- Carry out all possible medical assistance for the child, prior to the parent or ambulance arriving.
- In accordance with regulation 99(4)(d) of the *Education and Care Service National Regulations 2011*, staff can remove a child requiring medical, hospital or ambulance care from the premises without the parents/guardians consent.
- Where an ambulance is required and the parent/guardian is not present to accompany the child, a staff member and/or a nominated representative of the licensee will accompany the child in the ambulance. If the Centre is then understaffed a Management Committee licensee representative or reliever will be called in to assist.
- Record relevant information in the accident, injury and illness book.
- Review the cause of any incident, injury or illness and taking appropriate action to remove the cause if required, for example, removing a nail found protruding from climbing equipment or retraining staff to adhere more closely to the service's Hygiene Policy.

The Director or their delegate will:

- Notify their regional DEECD office of the death of a child or an accident, illness or trauma that requires treatment by a registered medical practitioner or admission to a hospital.
- Complete the Accident, Injury and Illness Record and forward this as soon as practicable to the relevant regional DEECD office.

Procedures for administering medicine

The staff will:

- Administer all medication in accordance with the *Education and Care Service National Regulations 2011* (Division 4) and the *Children's Services Regulations 2009* (Regulation 83).
- Make available, at all times the Centre is operating, the medication book for parent/guardians to record their authorisation for the administration of any medication while the child is attending DSCC.
- Display in a prominent position all requirements concerning the signing of the medication book.
- Administer the first dose of any medication where parent/guardian has provided verbal permission to 2 staff members. Staff should follow procedures outlined in the *DSCC Administration of Medication Policy*.

- Assess the child's condition to ascertain if they can cope with group care. If the child is deemed by the Director to be not coping with group care due to their illness or injury, the parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up the child as soon as possible.
- If children are reliant on non-prescribed medication to get through the day (such as Panadol), they are deemed not able to cope with group care and will be sent home. The final decision on this issue will rest with the Director or their delegate.

The parents/guardians will:

- Ensure they record any medications to be administered at DSCC in the medication book.
- Provide medications that are to be administered at DSCC in their original container bearing the original label, instructions and the expiry date.
- Notify staff of the appropriate storage for medication provided.

First aid and infection control training and equipment

The Management Committee will:

- Provide a First Aid Kit and give staff funding and authority to purchase supplies to suitably maintain it.
- Ensure the Director provides appropriate equipment and materials for the implementation of the step by step infection control procedure.

The Director, or their delegate will:

- Ensure that the orientation and induction of new and relief staff includes an overview of their responsibilities in the event of an incident or medical emergency.
- Roster at least one staff member with the required first aid qualification on duty whenever children are being cared for or educated by DSCC.
- Ensure that there is an OH&S Representative to monitor and replenish the First Aid Kit.
- Monitor the expiration date of staff's first aid qualifications.
- Implementing strategies which:
 - Promote hand washing and other hygienic practices
 - Identify and exclude children and staff with symptoms of an excludable infectious illness or disease
 - Maintain clean and hygienic environments
 - Encourage child and adult immunisation
 - Maintain up to date records of immunisation dates

The staff will:

- Monitor the First Aid Kit and arrange for it to be replenished when needed.
- Display the current Local Government immunisation dates, times and locations at DSCC.
- Ensure that the step-by-step procedure for infection control is displayed in a prominent position within the Centre and implemented at all times.
- Adhere to appropriate policy or guidelines to minimise infectious disease risk where possible (e.g. for animal farm incursions, activities involving food, hygiene practices and when handling body fluids including nappy changing).
- Be trained in infection control procedures, either on the job or through an external agency. Organisations offering training for staff are provided in Appendix 4.

The Parent/guardian will:

- When assisting at DSCC, practice the Centre's step by step infection control procedures.

Procedures for infection control

All body fluid spills and abrasions are a potential hazard. Therefore infection control procedures will be used when dealing with these in order to provide maximum protection from the potential hazard.

The following statements are based on the principle that all people are potentially infectious and that infection control procedures will be practised at all times:

- Staff will have access to materials as required that will enable them to implement infection control procedures. This will include bleach, latex gloves etc. Disposable latex gloves will be available in the First Aid cabinet at all times.
- A step-by-step procedure on infection control (Appendix 3) will be displayed and complied with by DSCC. Both existing staff and new staff as part of their induction will be made aware of this procedure.
- The service will have available a booklet/publication on infection control. (Information on publications on infection control is contained in Appendix 3 attached to this policy.)

Full details of any exposure to a body fluid spill and abrasion must be recorded in the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record for children and the Incident/Injury Register for staff, students and volunteers.

Following any incident which a staff member believes may have resulted in exposure to HIV/AIDS or hepatitis, the staff member should seek the advice of a qualified medical practitioner immediately, to assess the need for testing and report this to the Director. The Director will notify the Management Committee who will treat this information as confidential.

Procedures for exclusion of children or staff members with acute Hepatitis A

As the Department of Health Primary School and Children's Services Centres Exclusion Table requires the exclusion of children and staff with acute Hepatitis A, parents/guardians and staff must inform DSCC if their child attending the service or the staff member has contracted this disease.

How will the Centre protect staff from injury, trauma and illness?

- DSCC will provide all staff with information on their responsibilities towards service users and people in their care in relation to this policy.
- DSCC shall at all times follow proper infection control procedures to minimise the risk of the transmission of blood borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis.
- No child, staff member or parent/guardian will be denied First Aid at any time.
- DSCC will ensure that First Aid equipment for protection against the risk of infection from blood borne viruses will be available and used at all times.
- Staff are required to take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the workplace at all times.

Record keeping

- An accurate *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* will be stored confidentially at the Centre until the child is 25 years old (Regulation 183(2)). Medication records will also be kept until the end of 3 years after the child's last attendance (Regulation 92, 183).

An entry will be recorded in the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* for:

- an incident in relation to a child, an injury received by a child or trauma to which a child has been subjected; and/or
- an illness that becomes apparent.

The *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* must contain:

- the name and age of the child
- the circumstances leading to the incident, injury or trauma, or relevant circumstances surrounding the child becoming ill (including any symptoms)
- the time and date the incident occurred, the injury was received or the child was subjected to the trauma, or the apparent onset of the illness
- the action taken by the service, including any medication administered, first aid provided or medical personnel contacted
- details of any person who witnessed the incident, injury or trauma, or the apparent onset of illness
- the name of any person the service notified, or attempted to notify, of any incident, injury, trauma or illness that a child suffered while being educated and cared for by the service, and the time and date of the notifications/attempted notifications

- the name and signature of the person making an entry in the record, and the time and date that the entry was made
- signature of a parent/guardian to verify that they have been informed of the occurrence.

All information will be included in the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record as soon as is practicable, but not later than 24 hours after the incident, injury or trauma, or the onset of the illness.

The Director, or their delegate, will:

- Ensure that children's enrolment forms provide authorisation for the service to seek emergency medical treatment by a medical practitioner, hospital or ambulance service.
- Ensure that an incident report (SI01) is completed and a copy forwarded to the regional DEECD office as soon as is practicable but not later than 24 hours after the occurrence.
- Be aware and understanding the requirements of any medical condition action plans relevant to children present at the Centre.

The staff will:

- Maintain children's enrolment records regarding their current immunisation status.
- Record details of any incident, injury or illness in the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* as soon as is practicable but not later than 24 hours after the occurrence
- Ensure that regulatory and legislative responsibilities are met in relation to any incident, injury or medical emergency.
- Be aware and understanding the requirements of any medical condition action plans relevant to children present at the Centre.

The Parent/Guardian will:

- Ensure that they provide the service with a current medical management plan, if applicable (Regulation 162(d)).
- Notify DSCC, upon enrolment or diagnosis, of any medical conditions and/or needs, and any management procedure to be followed with respect to that condition or need (Regulation 162).
- Sign the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record*, acknowledging that they have been made aware of the incident.
- Provide all information required on the children's enrolment records and immunisation details as requested by the Centre and in accordance with the amendments made to the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no obligation, legal or otherwise for anyone to inform an employer, service provider, or service of their own or their child's HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B or C, or other blood borne virus status. Consequently:

- Such information must not be disclosed without informed consent of the individual [or guardian for a person under the age of 18 years].
- The only reason a parent would inform the staff member of the child's blood-borne disease status would be for the benefit of the child.
- Staff or committee members, in receipt of verbal or written information relating to the HIV/AIDS or blood borne disease status and condition of any child or staff member, must take all reasonable precautions to protect the child or staff member's privacy.
- All such information must be kept securely [under lock and key] within the service; access to this information must only be by the person who has been informed. Information relating to the blood borne status will be destroyed once the person leaves the employment of, or ceases to attend DSCC unless it forms part of the child's medical record or an *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record*, which must be stored according to legislative timeframes.
- No routine or mandatory blood borne disease testing may be carried out on children or staff.
- No testing may be carried out without the informed consent of the individual and provision of pre and post-test counselling, by an accredited counsellor or qualified medical practitioner. (Contacts for accredited counsellors are listed under Resources and Support.)

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Related Documents

- Department of Health School Exclusion Table (Copies available by contacting Communicable Diseases Unit on 9637 4126 or 9637 4125.)
- VMIA Insurance Guide, Community Service Organisations program: www.vmia.vic.gov.au
- Staying Healthy in Child Care (Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services).
- National Health and Medical Research Council (2005), *Staying Healthy in Child Care: Preventing infectious diseases in child care*, available at www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines or email nhmrc.publications@nhmrc.gov.au (Note: this publication is currently being revised and will have significant changes. It is important that services refer to the most up-to-date version of this resource.)
- Emergency Procedures, Guidelines for Kindergartens and Child Care Centres (DHS, Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and the Country Fire Authority).
- WorkSafe Victoria: *Guide to Incident Notification*
- Ambulance Victoria: *AV How to Call Card*
- DSCC's Anaphylaxis Policy

- DSCC's Asthma Policy
- DSCC's Administration of Medication and First Aid Policy
- DSCC's Complaints and Grievances Policy
- DSCC's Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- DSCC's Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
- DSCC's Excursions and Service Events Policy
- DSCC's Food Safety and Hygiene Policy

Phone Numbers to be displayed

- Licensee representatives of the Management Committee
- DEECD Regional Office
- Ambulance
- Local Fire Brigade
- Police
- Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26
- Asthma Victoria (03) 9326 7055 or toll free 1800 645 130

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the policy has achieved the values and purposes set out under '6. Policy Statement', the Management Committee will:

- Assess whether there is a satisfactory resolution of issues relating to accidents and illness of children at the Centre.
- If appropriate, conduct a survey in relation to this policy or incorporate relevant questions within the general parent/guardian survey.
- Take into consideration feedback, regarding infection control and the policy, from staff, parents/guardians and Committee members and adjust infection control procedures, or provide additional information on the subject, if appropriate.
- Monitor complaints and incidents regarding accidents and illness of children attending the Centre.
- In consultation with staff, review the infection control procedures and adherence to them at least annually.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Immunisation Calendar

Appendix 2: Dawson Street Child Care Cooperative Exclusion Table

Appendix 3: Step by Step Procedure for Infection Control Relating to Blood-Borne Viruses

Appendix 4: Relevant Publications and Training Providers Publications

Review date:

Date Reviewed	Details of Changes (if any)	Date of Next Review
September 2023	Updated to include COVID-19 management procedures and reference to COVID-19 Policies / Safety Plan Updated the Immunisation Calendar in line with newest release from Department of Health and Aged Care.	September 2026
August 2019	Updated to consistently refer to illness or injury throughout policy Updated to clarify that Routine Excursions are part of the group care program	August 2021
July 2016	Updated in line with amendments in the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008	November 2018
November 2014	Incorporation of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Policy and restructure of policy for ease of use	November 2018
July 2013	Updated to reflect new regulations and policy	July 2014
March 2012	Update to reflect new regulations and to simplify operation of procedures, particularly, procedures when children become ill and are excluded	July 2012
August 2011	Update to reflect new regulations. Better align with school exclusions table, and consolidate with the infectious disease policy Improved procedures around parents returning sick children to the centre	July 2012
July 2010	None	July 2010

October 2009	Insertion of rules about conjunctivitis, change reference to updated Children's Services Regulations	June 2010
March 2008	Clarification of policy of administration of nonprescription medication.	June 2010
June 2007	Updated to allow staff to administer non-prescription drugs – Section 7	June 2010
December 2006	Initial DSCC policy based on 2005 KPV Illness & Emergency Care policy.	December 2009

Appendix 1: Immunisation Calendar
Based on the Department of Health & Ageing - National Immunisation Program Schedule (1 July 2020)

Age	Disease
Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis B
2 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b • Pneumococcal • Rotavirus
4 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b • Pneumococcal • Rotavirus
6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b • Pneumococcal (All children with specified medical risk conditions)
12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measles, mumps, rubella • Pneumococcal • Meningococcal ACWY
18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b • Measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox • Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis
4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis • Pneumococcal (All children with specified medical risk conditions)

Appendix 2: Dawson Street Child Care Cooperative Exclusion Table

Please note, this table has been established using the Victorian Government school exclusion table as a guide. Additional exclusions have been added as agreed by the Management Committee in the interests of minimising cross infection amongst the DSCC community.

http://www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas/regulations/phw_regs/exclusionstable

Disease or Condition	Exclusion of Cases	Exclusion of Contacts
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased (at least 24 hours after last motion) or until medical certificate of recovery is produced.	Not excluded
Campylobacter	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased (at least 24 hours after last motion) or until medical certificate of recovery is produced.	Not excluded
Chicken Pox	Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash appears in unimmunised children, but may be less in previously immunised children.	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise not excluded.
Conjunctivitis (acute infection)	Until discharge from eye has ceased	Not excluded
COVID-19	Exclude for full length of current government-mandated isolation period (if any)	Not excluded (rapid tests are recommended for close contacts)
Diphtheria	Excluded until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least 2 negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and the other 48 hours later.	Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by the Secretary

Diarrhoea (once clearly established i.e., 2-3 abnormal stools)	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased (at least 24 hours after last motion)	Not excluded.
Haemophilus Type b (Hib)	Exclude until at least 4 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed and medical certificate has been received.	Not excluded.
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease (Coxsackie virus)	Exclude until all blisters have dried.	Not excluded
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7	Not excluded.
Measles	Exclude until at least 4 days after the onset of rash	Immunised contacts not excluded. Unimmunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If unimmunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hours of their first contact with the first case, or received NHIG within 144 hours of exposure, they may return to the facility.
Meningitis (bacteria)	Exclude until well	Not excluded.
Meningococcal Infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed.	Not excluded if receiving carrier eradication therapy.
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded.
Pediculosis (head lice)	Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded.
Poliomyelitis	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re-admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery	Not excluded.

Disease or Condition	Exclusion of Cases	Exclusion of Contacts
Respiratory tract infections (colds, influenza, otitis, media, bronchitis)	Exclude if temperature is > 38°C or child is unable to cope in a group situation	Not excluded.
Ringworm	Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded.
Rubella (german measles)	Excluded until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of rash.	Not excluded.
Salmonella Shigella	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded.
Scabies	Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded.
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced.	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Secretary
Streptococcal infection (inc Scarlet Fever)	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well.	Not excluded.
Trachoma	Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.	Not excluded.
Tuberculosis	Exclude until receipt of a medical certificate from the treating physician stating that the child is not considered to be infectious	Not excluded.
Typhoid (including Paratyphoid fever)	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Secretary.	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Secretary.
Vero toxin producing Escherichia coli (VTEC)	Exclude if required by the Secretary and only for the period specified by the Secretary	Not excluded.
Vomiting	A child shall be excluded until vomiting has ceased and the child is able to cope with normal group interaction. (48 hours after last motion)	Not excluded.

Whooping cough (Pertussis)	Exclude the child for 21 days after the onset of cough or until they have completed 5 days of a course of antibiotic treatment.	Contacts aged less than 7 years in the same room as the case who have not received three effective doses of pertussis vaccine should be excluded for 14 days after the last exposure to the infectious case, or until they have taken 5 days of a course of effective antibiotic treatment.
Worms (intestinal)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded

Exclusion of cases and contact is not required for Cytomegalovirus Infection, Glandular fever (mononucleosis), Hepatitis B or C, Hookworm, Molluscum contagiosum, or Parvovirus (erythema infectiosum fifth disease).

Appendix 3: Step by Step Procedure for Infection Control Relating to Blood-Borne Viruses

Blood spills

Equipment and procedures for managing blood spills and providing first aid for patients who are bleeding are detailed below:

Anyone working with children, who may need to respond to an incident involving blood, needs to cover cuts, sores or abrasions they may have on their hands and arms with waterproof dressings, while at the service.

Cleaning and removal of blood spills

Equipment

- Disposable gloves
- Disposable plastic bags
- Warm water and detergent
- Disposable towels
- Bleach. Strength should be 10,000 parts per million, approximately to one quarter of a cup of household bleach to one cup of water. Ensure that bleach has not passed its use by date and that it is mixed fresh on each occasion.

Procedure

- Put on disposable gloves.
- Saturate disposable towel in bleach solution.
- Cover the spill with the towel.
- Leave the towel in place for 10 minutes.
- Place towel in disposable plastic bag.
- Wash area with warm water and detergent.
- Place gloves into disposable plastic bag.
- Seal bag and dispose of it appropriately taking into consideration health and safety issues.
- Wash hands in warm soapy water.
- Soak any utensils used in bleach solution for 30 minutes, then wash in warm to hot soapy water and rinse.
- Care needs to be taken to ensure that children do not have access to the bleach saturated towel.

Providing first aid for children who are bleeding

Equipment

- Antiseptic
- Disposable plastic bags
- Disposable gloves
- Waterproof dressings
- Disposable towels
- Warm water and detergent

Procedure

- Adult treating child to cover any uncovered cuts, sores or abrasions on arms and hands with waterproof dressings.
- Put on disposable gloves.
- Wash wound under warm running water and apply antiseptic to wound.
- Apply waterproof dressing to the wound if necessary.
- Remove gloves and place in disposable plastic bag, tie securely.
- Seal bag and dispose of it appropriately taking into consideration health and safety issues.
- Wash hands in warm soapy water.
- Contaminated clothing or sick room linen should be removed and stored in leak-proof disposable plastic bags until they can be washed as follows using gloves:
- Rinse in cold water.
- Soak in 1:10 bleach solution (1 Part bleach 10 parts water) for 30 minutes, then rinse off bleach.
- After soaking, wash clothes and sick room linen separately from other laundry, at a high temperature on a long cycle.

Safe disposal of discarded needles/syringes

Equipment and procedures for the safe disposal of discarded needles and syringes are detailed below:

Equipment

- Disposable gloves.
- Long handled tongs.
- Disposable plastic bags.
- 'Sharps' syringe disposal container or plastic container with a screw-top lid.

Procedure:

- Put on disposable gloves.
- Do not try to recap the needle.
- Place the disposal container on the ground next to the syringe.
- Pick up the syringe as far from the needle end as possible, using tongs if not easily accessible.
- Place the syringe, needle point down, in the disposal container and screw the lid back on firmly.
- Repeat this procedure to pick up all syringes and/or unattached needles.
- Remove gloves and place in disposable plastic bag.
- Seal and dispose of the plastic bag.
- If tongs are used, soak in bleach solution for 30 minutes, then wash in hot soapy water and rinse.
- Wash hands in warm, soapy water.

Under no circumstances should work experience students or children be permitted to pick up needles/syringes.

Syringe disposal containers or syringes must not be put in normal waste disposal bins.

Syringe disposal containers may be disposed of by:

- Telephoning the Disposal Help Line on 1800 552355 for the location of the nearest needle exchange outlet or public disposal bin.
- Contacting the local hospital.
- Contacting the Risk Reduction Unit at the Department of Human Services on 03 9637 4000.
- Contacting the environmental officer (health surveyor) at the local municipal/council offices; also for any further concerns about syringe disposal.

Needle stick injuries

The Department of Human Services has indicated that the risk of infection from needle stick injury is low and should not cause alarm.

The following procedures should be observed in case of needle stick injury:

- Flush the affected part with running water and detergent.
- Wash in warm, soapy water.
- Dry area, apply antiseptic to the wound and cover with a waterproof dressing if necessary.
- Report the injury to the Director and Chair of Management Committee.
- See a doctor as soon as possible and report the circumstances of the injury.

This procedure is based on advice provided by the Department of Education, Employment and Training and the Department of Human Services.

Appendix 4: Relevant Publications and Training Providers Publications

Department of Health

Health Protection Section

- *AIDS Your Questions Answered*
- *Public Health – Hepatitis A*
- *Hepatitis B – the facts*
- *Hepatitis C – the facts*

Youth Family and Community Services

- *DHS Children’s Services Licensing Operational Guide* (Chapter 4 Health and Welfare of Children)

Information Victoria 1300 366 356

356 Collins Street Melbourne.

- *Health (General Amendment) Act 1988.*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1995.*
- *Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985.*

Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission 1300 292 153

- *HIV, AIDS & Hepatitis C Discrimination*
- *Discrimination against people living with HIV or AIDS*
- *Hepatitis C Discrimination.*

Lady Gowrie Child Centre (03) 9347 6388

36 Newry Street North Carlton 3054

- *Staying Healthy in Child Care*
- *HIV/AIDS and Child Care*
- *Managing the Risks in Children’s Services.*

Community Child Care Co Op Ltd (NSW) (02) 9557 5599

Locked Bag 19 Newtown 2042

- *HIV/AIDS and Child Care*

AECA -Victorian Branch (03) 9427 8474

9-11 Stewart Street Richmond 3121

Guidelines for Prevention and Control of Infection in Child Care Settings

Training for Staff

Red Cross 1800 811 700

171 City Road South Bank

- In-services held across Victoria
- First Aid Course level 2
- Essential First Aid

St John's Ambulance 13 13 94

98 York St. South Melbourne. (Headquarters)

- Inservices held across Victoria
- Emergency First Aid, level 2
- Basic Life Support.

Victorian AIDS Council 1800 134840

- 6 Claremont Street South Yarra 3141

Accredited Counsellors

Contact VIDS Telehealth (03) 9342 8834

Victorian Infectious Diseases Service

Royal Melbourne Hospital Grattan Street Parkville

Postal Address: VIDS, 9 North C/- PO RMH 3050