



# St. Thomas School & Pre-School

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## Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy

### Rational

Infectious diseases are illnesses caused by the spread of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites) or prior to humans from other humans, animals or the environment, including food and water.

Infectious diseases can spread in a variety of ways: through the air, from direct or indirect contact with another person, soiled objects, skin or mucous membrane, saliva, urine, blood and body secretions and through contaminated food and water.

All staff have a primary duty to the children in their care. All staff are required to take positive steps towards maintaining health and safety for children at St. Thomas School & Pre-school. Staff, children and their families are to be informed and understand the various Health and First Aid related policies.

We promote a safe and healthy environment by working cooperatively with families to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. Infections are common in children, however we can minimise the spread of disease in our community.

### Staff responsibilities

Children who arrive at the centre and are obviously unwell will need to be sent home immediately. If a child becomes unwell during a session, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect the child. (If a parent is unable to be contacted, the alternative contact person named on the enrolment form will be called)

To minimise the spread of infectious diseases we encourage:

- All families to immunise their children and keep their record card up to date. This will help to prevent serious diseases (e.g. Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Measles, Mumps, Polio)
- Hand washing before preparing or eating food, after wiping noses and after using the toilet.
- Staff to wear gloves when handling all body fluid, such as blood, faeces and vomit

- All children to be toilet trained. We realise accidents will happen, but if possible children need to be independent in the toilet

### **Parent responsibilities**

If your child is not well and will not be attending Pre-school, please ring and let the staff know.

If you suspect that your child has an infectious disease such as Chicken Pox, Measles or other infectious diseases listed at the end of this document, please see a doctor and advise the school. To minimise the spread of infectious diseases we are required to alert the other families in this community.

Sometimes it is difficult to know when to keep your child at home from Pre-school. It is important for the health of both the other children and staff that you keep your child at home when he/she has any of the following symptoms:

- Is unusually tired, pale, and irritable or lacks an appetite and is generally unwell
- Has watery stools in a 24 hour period. (Gastroenteritis)
- Has an ear infection.
- Thick pus draining from the eyes (Conjunctivitis)
- A body rash or a temperature of 38% or higher.
- A sore throat, persistent cough or sneeze, swollen neck glands, constant runny nose, or mucus is thick and not clear.
- Has vomited 2 or 3 times within the previous 24 hours.

### **Periods of Exclusion for Infectious Diseases**

#### *Bronchitis*

Stay at home until appropriate medical treatment is given and the child is feeling well.

#### *Chicken Pox*

Stay at home until all lesions have crusted, there are no moist sores and the child is fully recovered.

#### *Conjunctivitis*

Stay at home until there is no discharge from eyes

#### *Croup*

Stay at home until fully recovered.

#### *German Measles (Rubella)*

Stay at home for 7 days after rash first appears and the child is fully recovered. Please confirm with a doctor because of the potential severity of illness to pregnant women.

### *Head Lice*

Hair must be treated to eradicate both lice and nits. When infestation is suspected, parents will be notified, so that treatment may start as soon as possible, thus preventing further infection to others. Information and availability on treatment methods will be supplied if required.

### *Impetigo (School sores)*

Stay at home until sore/s clears.

### *Influenza*

Stay at home until child feels well.

### *Measles*

Stay at home for 7 days after rash appears or until given a clear bill of health by a doctor.

### *Mumps*

Stay at home for a least 9 days or until all swelling has subsided, which ever is sooner.

### *Ring Worm*

Stay at home until appropriate treatment has commenced, confirmation of this is to be by a medical certificate.

### *Rotavirus (Diarrhoea)*

Stay at home until diarrhoea symptoms have disappeared for 24 hours and the child feels well again.

### *Whooping Cough*

Stay at home for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment. Non immunised households or close contacts should be excluded for 14 days or until they have been on antibiotic treatment for at least 5 days.

## **Related Documents**

- Administration of First Aid Policy
- Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy