



# Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten

## Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

### **Legislation:**

*Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*

*Education and Care Services National Regulation 2018*

*United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989*

### **Quality Area 2: Children's Health & Safety**

*Education and Care Services National Regulations: 175.2C, 77; 88; 168*

*Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167*

### **LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES/ DOCUMENTS**

- *Enrolment and Orientation*
- *Infectious Diseases*
- *Incidents, Injury, Trauma and Illness*
- *Cleaning and Maintaining the Environment*
- *Workplace Health and Safety*

### **Rationale:**

Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten recognises the important role the service plays in the prevention of infection and illness amongst children and educators.

Maintaining an effective level of hygiene is one of the most important and regularly implemented practices at preschool.

To meet the requirements of [Regulation 88](#) and [Regulation 168\(2\)\(c\)](#),

Our preschool is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment that reduces the chance of being infected or spreading **COVID-19**. In recognition of the rapid spread of this disease and the ongoing release of information from authorities, our service needs to respond swiftly and correctly to advice from authorities.

### **Aim:**

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019." (World Health Organisation)



*Practices to reduce the chance of being infected or spreading COVID-19 will include:*

- Regularly and thoroughly cleaning hands with an antibacterial soap and water for at least 20 seconds, with an alcohol-based hand sanitiser or with soap and water.
- Encouraging children to avoid touching eyes, nose and general face area mouth as much as possible.
- Following good respiratory hygiene, when coughing or sneezing:
  - cover mouth and nose with bent elbow or tissue and
  - dispose of the used tissue immediately and
  - wash hands with soap and water or, if water is not available, use hand sanitiser
- Excluding children or staff who are unwell and reasonably suspected to have a communicable disease from the service until they are cleared by a doctor to return.
- Restricting excursions during this heightened risk period and conducting risk assessments prior in consideration of:
  - the latest advice from the Australian Health Protection Principle Committee (AHPPC) and
  - and those at high risk such as those with medical conditions.
- Encouraging social distancing where appropriate (*eg, parents coming to drop or pickup kids*)

*To help manage the spread and help maintain a hygienic we will increase our measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our community. This will involve the following strategies*

- I. All families will be greeted at the front door by an educator, NO parents, carers, siblings will enter the preschool building
- II. Educators will seek families' verbal permission to sign their child in. an educator will sign each child into preschool
- III. each child will have their temperature taken before entering preschool
- IV. any child who is unwell or has a temperature 38° or higher will be asked to return home
- V. Children will be taken to wash their hands
- VI. Lunch boxes will be wiped over with soapy water before being put into the fridge
- VII. At pick up time we will follow a similar
- VIII. Under no circumstances are FAMILIES not to are to enter the preschool grounds.
- IX. Ask parents not to send home-made Birthday cakes, instead advise to bring prepacked from the supermarket.

Should there be any concerns regarding the health of a child at the service, families will be asked to seek medical attention. Further guidance may be sought from Health direct on **1800 022 222**.

*Cleaning and hygiene*

Our service maintains a clean and hygienic environment. During any infectious disease outbreak, routine environmental cleaning is increased in frequency, particularly on high-



touch surfaces such as door handles, tables, light switches and bathroom areas and any toys/ surfaces which may have been mouthed or in contact with bodily fluids.

Surfaces are cleaned to reduce any soil, then disinfected to remove germs.

Further advice regarding infectious cleaning will be sought from the local Public Health Unit should there be any direct concern regarding the exposure of COVID-19 at the service.

#### *Social Distancing within the preschool*

- Encourage staff to keep their distance from others if possible.
- Exclude staff, children and visitors with symptoms of COVID-19[External link](#) from your service – read more on managing a sick staff member or child.
- Reconsider non-essential activities that involve close personal contact – for example excursions and incursions.
- Implement controls to reduce direct contact with others, such as:
  - barriers to create space at sign-in areas, seated areas etc.
  - modify shifts and rosters, or pick-up and drop-off times to reduce peak periods.
  - have staff collect children from outside the service.
  - support remote learning for families keeping their children at home for long periods.

#### *Environmental Cleaning within the preschool*

Use environmental cleaning to minimise the number of germs that survive on surfaces at your service.

Some germs can survive in the environment, usually on surfaces such as bench tops, door handles and toys. The length of time a germ can survive on a surface depends on the germ itself, the type of surface it has contaminated, and how often the surface is cleaned. Reducing the number of germs in the environment can break the chain of infection.

If we think a surface may be infected, clean it with a common household disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others. Clean hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose.

#### *Temperature Checks within the preschool*

There is no requirement to check temperatures of children or staff. However our preschool has embedded daily temperature checks for staff, children and any person coming into the preschool. We understand that temperature checks aren't always effective at picking up people with COVID-19. This is because a significant proportion of people with COVID-19 don't have a fever. Temperature checks can also cause queues which prevent people from maintaining physical distancing.

We also use our own judgement to assess the health of a child – we typically know the children at your service well enough to recognise when they aren't feeling well.

#### *Face Masks within the preschool*



Staff in education and care services are not required to wear masks under any legislation or public health order. Read the NSW Government's [guidelines on wearing masks\(external link\)](#).

If staff feel more comfortable wearing a mask there is nothing in the National Law and Regulations to prevent them doing so.

We also follow normal disease prevention measures including hand sanitising, appropriate social distancing between adults and excluding anyone with symptoms or who has been in contact with a confirmed case

The preschool has a supply of face masks on the premises in the event if required

### Cases of COVID 19 within the preschool

1. If any STAFF member OR CHILD displays symptoms such as; temperature; dry cough; cold/flu like symptoms; sore throat fatigue and/or shortness of breath.

Responsible person on duty at the preschool will request

- a) *For the sick person to go home and request they go to seek immediate medical advice;*
  - b) *Any child or staff member who is unwell the preschools follow infectious disease policy. the preschool is to follow the normal procedures*
  - c) The preschool given these pandemic times will request that they have a *clearance letter* from their upon returning to the preschool environment.
2. If any child or staff member at your service has TESTED POSITIVE to COVID-19. The preschool must –
    - a) The preschool must notify families at the preschool.
    - b) Notify and seek advice from your local Public Health Unit when the infectious disease has impacted your service. And follow the procedures they say we must follow from that point forward.
    - c) Also ask the health department to put instructions in writing in an email.  
Your local Public Health unit can be contacted on 1300 066 055.
    - d) The preschool will follow the NSW Health Departments guidelines and at this time the preschool may be requested to close for 14 days.
    - e) The preschool while closed will have a deep clean.
    - f) Notify the NSW Regulatory Authority (NSW Department of Education) within 24 hours. The preschool will be required to report any risk or incident of infectious disease.

- COVID-19 practises within the preschool will be amended to reflect both current local community and wider community transmissions. This means the preschool will make decisions and respond accordingly with day-to-day practises depending on current information provided to us both by the NSW Health Department and in line with the Department of Education guidelines.

- The preschool will follow at foremost the services' Infectious Diseases Policy.

#### **Links to National Quality Framework Standards:**

Quality Area 2	Children's health and safety
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Standard	2.1	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
Standard	2.2	Each child is protected.
Quality Area 4		Staffing Arrangements
Standard	4.1	Staffing arrangements enhance children's learning and development.
Standard	4.2	Management, educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical.
Quality Area 6		Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
Standard	6.1	Respectful relationships with families are developed and maintained and families are supported in their parenting role.
Standard	6.2	Collaborative partnerships enhance children's inclusion, learning and wellbeing.
Quality Area 7		Governance and Leadership
Standard	7.2	Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organisational culture and professional learning community.
Element	7.2.1	There is an effective self-assessment and quality improvement process in place.

**Source:**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2009) *Belonging, Being, Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*.

Canberra:DEEWR

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2011) *Education and*

*Care Services National Regulation*

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2009) *National Quality*

*Standard for Early Education and Care and School Aged Children*

Canberra:DEEWR

Health and Safety in Children's Centres: Model Policies and Practices (2004)

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2005) *Staying healthy in Child Care* 4<sup>th</sup> ed

NSW Children's Services Health and Safety Committee and Early Childhood Australia (NSW Branch)

NSW Health Department <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au>

UNSW – (2003) *Health and Safety in Children's Services – Model Policies and Practices* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed

Policy Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by:

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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