

108 Hambidge Crescent
Chisholm ACT 2905
Australia
Email: info@chisholm.act.edu.au

Junior Campus
Phone: (02) 614 23555
Web: www.chisholm.act.edu.au

Senior Campus
Phone: (02) 614 23550
ABN: 69 561 547 852

Caroline Chisholm School – Chisholm Preschool Unit Infectious Diseases Procedure

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations an infectious disease is “Any disease designated under a law of the relevant jurisdiction or by a health authority as a disease that would require a person with the disease to be excluded from an education and care service.”

If a staff member or member of the community advises the staff that a child at the preschool has contracted an infectious disease the following procedures should be followed:

- A sign identifying the infectious disease is placed at the entry to each Preschool classroom.
- A note advising of the occurrence of an infectious disease is sent home to parents and carers as soon as staff have been made aware of the occurrence. If a note is not possible, email or phone contact is made with all parents. The note will be accompanied by any relevant information available from ACT Public Health (<http://www.health.act.gov.au/datapublications/fact-sheets/communicable-diseases>) and will provide information regarding recommended exclusion periods.
- All interactions with parents and members of the community must consider the privacy of the child/ family concerned. Details concerning the health of individual children should not be divulged to other parties.
- Hand hygiene and Preschool Hygiene Procedures should be followed for all equipment, books and puzzles in the Preschool classrooms when an outbreak has occurred.
- A parent/carer of a child with a listed exclusion condition or a child who has been in contact with a listed exclusion condition must notify the school principal or principal carer as soon as possible.
- Some conditions must be notified by medical practitioners to the Chief Health Officer and others must be notified by the school principal to the Chief Health Officer. Staff should check the exclusions Schedule 1 in the Education Directorate Infectious Diseases - Outbreak Procedures and Exclusion Periods Policy for details about notifications.

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