



# St. Mary's Preschool

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## Immunisation and Notifiable Diseases Policy

### Rationale

The criterion aims to uphold the health and safety of children and adults by preventing undue exposure to disease or illness while attending the service.

Upon enrolment, the centre is required to sight each child's immunisation status and take copies as necessary for administration reasons. These will be reviewed and updated annually.

Information gathered is kept on file and on the computer database. This information will only be used in the case of an outbreak, to ensure the safety of ALL children. In the event of an outbreak, Public Health may request this information.

*Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008 R46 1*

### If there was an outbreak or suspected outbreak

The following procedure will be followed:

If notified by a parent/caregiver about a notifiable or suspected disease outbreak we will:

1. Make contact with families of unimmunised children before they come into the centre.
2. If any child is unimmunised, we will be taking direction and advice from the DHB. This may include exclusion of children.
3. Communication received from the DHB regarding information for parents will be distributed to families via email and a notice on the board.
4. The child who has the disease would be required to stay away from Preschool until they have a doctor's clearance certificate
5. Advise Public Health of the outbreak.

### Procedures:

1. Parents are provided a copy of the Immunisation and Notifiable Diseases policy in their enrolment pack. This information advises them of procedures and practices involving sick children. The Public Health guidelines will be displayed in the centre, and on the website so parents are aware of the guidelines we adhere to.
2. If a child becomes ill during session time, the child is isolated from others with a staff member in the office and the parent/caregiver will be phoned immediately to collect the child/ren within 30 minutes

3. Staff will use their common sense in regard to illness, taking into account Reg 57. They will always use and encourage hygiene practices.

Records will also be kept of staff immunisation status, for their health and wellbeing.

When a staff member contracts an infectious disease, as defined in the Schedule 1 of the Health Act 1956, or where a staff member is excluded from the workplace under the Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008 (or any subsequent legislation in place thereof) from attending work, special paid leave of up to five (5) days in any one year shall be allowed for the period of infection. Such leave shall not be offset against any entitlement under sub clause (a) or (c) of this clause. (See ECECA Part 12)

The Board of Governors will pay for staff to retrieve records of their immunisation status if needed.

If a staff member requires a booster of an immunisation to be covered from any potential outbreak, the Board of Governors will pay for this.

Unimmunised/immunocompromised staff members can choose to take sick leave if there is a confirmed outbreak of an infectious disease (if no sick leave entitlement is available, alternate leave options can be considered).

Date Reviewed	March 2022
Board Ratified	17/03/2022
Next Review	2025