

## 1.2.1 Illness & Infectious Diseases Policy

### Rationale

Children who attend OMP need to be kept safe from and prevented from being exposed to sickness wherever possible.

[Link to Te Whāriki](#) – The health and wellbeing of the child are protected and nurtured.

[Link to OMP Value](#): Being Professional and ethical; inclusive, appreciative of diversity and child centred.

### Procedures

In general children should stay away from OMP when:

- They have no interest in activities or play
- have little energy, want or need to sleep or rest for long periods
- cry easily, are irritable or in pain
- constantly want to be held and comforted
- have a fever
- any child with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away until symptoms cease and they are well.

At OMP, we protect all children and kaiako from cross infection. We do not allow children with contagious diseases to be in contact with other children. When a child becomes ill at OMP, the child is kept in the office at a safe distance from other children and their parent or caregiver is asked to collect them as soon as possible.

- We ensure all parents understand this policy on enrolment and is included in our Parents Handbook.
- Kaiako will use gloves and disinfectant when there is any concern about stopping the transmission of infectious diseases.
- The Infectious disease exclusion policy has guidelines for when sick children should not attend the centre.
- Any notifiable diseases are notified to the Ministry of Health.
- Kaiako and parents are informed of health warnings and how to recognise signs of any illnesses for which we receive Ministry notifications.
- Children and adults who are sick are not to be present at OMP. This will include vomiting, diarrhoea, high temperatures, a chesty cough, green runny nose (along with other flu like symptoms), conjunctivitis, impetigo (school sores) and any other contagious illness such as COVID-19.
- The wellbeing of children and kaiako is paramount. If a child arrives at the preschool and is clearly not well, the Team Leader/Manager reserves the right to not allow that child to be left at OMP.
- Parents are asked to notify the centre before 9:00am if their child is sick and unable to attend. It is important that other children in our care are not exposed to infectious illnesses. Parents are asked to seek medical advice if a child has an infection that is contagious and treat as necessary before returning.
- If a child has a mild cold, it is acceptable for them to attend, but please if their nose is very runny or green they should be at home.
- If a child has had vomiting and/or diarrhoea, they must not return to OMP until there has been a minimum 48 hour period since the last bout.

- Please advise OMP if a child has had paracetamol before they arrive at preschool. Paracetamol masks high temperatures, illness and can mask more serious symptoms associated with being unwell and it is important that kaiako are aware to watch the child more carefully. If a child requires pain relief regularly (eg every four hours) then they are probably not well enough to be at OMP.
- Children will be regularly monitored. If kaiako notices such things as lowered activity levels, temperature fluctuation, sleepiness, fussiness, vomiting, diarrhoea, coughing, green runny nose or other flu like symptoms, complaints of a sore throat etc, the child's parents will be contacted and requested to collect the child.
- At the first opportunity kaiako will record the illness in the Safetynest system, with action taken and the time the child was collected from OMP.
- If a child requires urgent medical attention, a parent will be informed and asked to meet the child at the Starship Hospital, Auckland. The Team Leader will transport the child to A&E immediately. Team Leader will follow Injury and incident procedure flowchart.
- Upon enrolment, specific medical conditions or allergies must be identified by the parents or whanāu and, where appropriate, individual action plans must be documented clearly.
- In cases of outbreaks of any infectious diseases, parents will be informed of the occurrence of the disease at OMP via the notice board and Storypark. The privacy of the child and family will be maintained.
- Children are washed when they are soiled or pose a health risk to themselves or others.

Kaiako illness and accidents:

- Kaiako with communicable illnesses must take sick leave.
- Kaiako illnesses are also recorded and procedures followed as for child procedures with emergency contact notified where the incident is serious.

Introduction date:	Review date:
Comments:	See reference below
Consultation undertaken:	Kaiako Meeting approval, uploaded to website for parent approval and comment.

Reference: Te Whāriki (2017). Licensing Criteria 2008, HS12, HS25, HS27 and HS30.