

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Childcare Services

Infection Prevention and Control Policy

Childcare Services at Queen's acknowledge that it is our duty to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the children within our care.

Due to the ages of the children that we provide a service for, there are many common communicable diseases that we need endeavour to protect the children and Childcare Staff Team from.

There are procedures in place to take measures to help protect against infection.

General Infection Control and good respiratory hand hygiene can help reduce transmission of all viruses. These include:

- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible
- Disposing of used tissues promptly and carefully
- Maintaining good basic hygiene, such as washing your hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of infection/virus from hands to face or to other people/objects
- Cleaning hard surfaces such as door handles frequently using the usual cleaning product
- Ensuring that the children who attend our setting follow this advice

Childcare Services have intensive hygiene practices that can help prevent infections/viruses. These include:

- Childcare Staff to practice effective hand washing
- Thorough cleansing of nappy changing units and toilet areas using prescribed sanitizers and wipes
- Children's noses are wiped and tissues disposed of promptly and appropriately
- Effective cleansing of table tops and work counters, dining rooms, high chairs, play tables
- Regular and effective cleaning of toys, games, construction toys, board games and soft toys
- Stocks of thermometers, hand sanitizers, surface wipes and facial tissues
- Daily cleaning schedules with contracted cleaning specialists (See included site schedule)

Maintenance of a clean environment is an essential part of our daily practice. High standards of personal hygiene are promoted through hand washing before eating, after toileting, teeth brushing etc. Individually labelled face cloths/ hand towels are provided for all age groups.

We ask parents to assist the Childcare Team by:

- Giving an honest and accurate account of their child's wellbeing
- To come immediately when asked to collect their child
- To not allow your child to return to the Childcare Site until they are fully recovered and free of symptoms
- To report any diagnosed illness to Childcare Staff

If the manager considers that a child is not well enough to attend the Childcare Site, they may ask the child's parents to take the child home to ensure the well-being of the child and the other children who attend the setting. Please ensure all contact details are up to date.

Childminding and Daycare for Children Under Age 12 Minimum Standards stipulate the Childcare setting should ensure "Good hygiene is practiced and promoted in order to minimise the spread of infection. When a child is ill, appropriate measures that that comply with infection controls guidelines are taken."

In cases of infectious diseases, please notify the Management Team of the diagnosis.

If your child has been in contact with any infectious diseases, please notify Childcare Staff. (See included 'Incubation and Exclusion Period of Common Communicable Diseases')

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in_schools_poster.pdf

The Management Team will notify all parents of an outbreak of any infectious disease within the setting.

Please note we reserve the right to refer to our own periods of exclusion when managing infection and childhood illness.