



Seed to Tree Childcare,
Email: seedtotreechildcare@gmail.com
Web: <https://seedtotreechildcare.ie/>
Phone: 089 274 8118

Policy on infection control

Introduction

It is the priority of Seed to tree childcare to protect all children attending our service and all persons working in our service from the transmission of infections. The health and well-being of all children, staff and visitors to our service is paramount and our aim is to prevent and manage any infection which may be present in the service.

Children and colleagues are excluded if they are ill, present a danger or a risk to others or are unable to benefit from the centre's normal activities. A co-operative approach between parents and the centre will help ensure a healthy and safe environment for all children and colleagues.

Cleaning of Equipment and the Premises

- All staff are aware of their role in maintaining high standards of hygiene.
- Seed to tree Childcare encourages best practice regarding keeping the environment and premises clean and safe.
- Spillages of blood, faeces, urine, vomit or other bodily fluids or excretions are cleaned immediately using PPE.
- Daily, weekly, and monthly cleaning schedules are in place and recorded. Cleaning records are located in each room. All cleaning checklists will be kept for 6 months.
- The service has a contract with a bin removal company for the removal and disposal of all waste.
- We maintain a sufficient stock of cleaning products and cleaning equipment (e.g., clean cloths, gloves, aprons, mops, buckets, and detergents) to ensure that good hygiene practices can be carried out at all times.
- Cleaning products and supplies are stored in a locked press that is not accessible to children.
- Toys and play materials are cleaned frequently with attention placed on especially soiled items.
- Toilets, floors, shelves, tables and chairs and other areas are cleaned daily or as required to help decrease the spread of infection. Cleaning agents used are detailed on our cleaning schedules. Mops for general floor washing will be washed in a 90-degree wash and will be left to dry. They are replaced regularly.
- At least once a day, even in winter, all rooms in the service are aired out.
- Deep cleaning will be carried out regularly.

Handwashing



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Seed to tree Childcare has a Hand Washing policy in place which all staff promote and model for children.

Warm running water is available for hand washing at a temperature no greater than 43°C at children's wash hand basins.

Soap is used when hand washing. Hand drying facilities are available e.g., disposable paper towels.

We endeavor to supervise children's hand washing and hand drying.

Handwashing guidelines are displayed in appropriate places.

Hand washing will take place at the following times:

- Staff will hand wash on arrival to the centre and children will hand wash on arrival to the room.
- Before and after preparing food, snacks and drinks.
- Before and after eating or handling food, and after feeding babies and children.
- Before and after administering medication. Gloves will be worn to administer any medical ointment.
- Before and after nappy changing and toileting.
- After toilet use. After coming in contact with bodily fluid.
- After handling animals or coming in contact with animal waste.
- After playing outdoors or in the sand.
- After handling rubbish.
- After blowing a child's nose.

Animals and pets

- Handwashing and drying procedures is followed before and after handling any animals and Pets that are present in Service.
- All animals and pets are managed in accordance with required and appropriate instructions for their care.
- Children are supervised with animals at all times.
- All our animals are regularly checked with vets.

Immunisation

- Our immunisation policy is followed at all times with all children and staff.
- Children's immunisation records are obtained when children begin in Seed to Tree childcare.
- Parents are asked to update Seed to Tree childcare when children receive additional immunisation.
- Parents have a right to choose to whether to immunize their child or not.
- If a child is not immunised, for their own safety they may be excluded from Seed to Tree childcare if an infectious disease that they are not immunised against is circulating.



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Parents will always be consulted on this. We always work in the best interests of children's health.

Toys and Equipment

- Toys that cannot be cleaned or sanitised will not be used.
- There will be enough equipment in all rooms so that staff can implement a toy rotation system to allow for cleaning and sterilisation.
- Machine washable fabric toys will be washed weekly or earlier if necessary.
- All toys and equipment will be sanitised daily.
- Sensorial play will continue in all of our rooms with material being disposed of and replenished daily. Sand is available in garden sand pits and rooms; this will be replenished as required.
- The service advises that toys from home should not be brought to setting. Children can bring their comforter to the setting.

Food preparation

- Staff always wear gloves when preparing and serving food and wash hands after removing gloves.
- Staff always wash their hands after prepping food and removing waste food and materials.
- Perishable food is kept in a refrigerator, between temperatures of 0 and 5 Celsius. Perishable food is not left at room temperature for more than two hours. Any perishable food left at room temperature for more than 2 hours will be discarded safely.
- Staff involved in helping children with toileting are not involved in preparing food.

Procedure for Managing an infectious illness

- Children are encouraged to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue before sneezing or coughing. Hands are washed after blowing noses, sneezing or coughing.
- Staff will report any illness to the manager/designated person in charge.
- Unwell children, with a temperature and/or specific signs and symptoms, will be excluded from the service until a diagnosis can be made. Staff can and will use their discretion when admitting a child back into Named Service, if they believe the child is still ill and cannot take part in their usual activities.
- Any child displaying symptoms of respiratory illness or any symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the service and should follow guidance advised by HSE.
- Any child who has tested positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance advised by HSE.



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- Parents are advised to contact the service as soon as possible if their child is unwell and unable to attend.
- Children should remain at home if they are suffering from general diarrhoea or vomiting for at least 48 hours.

Practices in service

- If a child is unwell and has not attended school during the day, the child cannot attend the centre later in the afternoon.
- If a child is not attending Seed to tree Childcare due to illness, we request that parents inform the manager on duty, stating details of the illness.
- Parents must inform the manager on duty if their child has come in contact with an infectious or contagious disease.
- Colleagues inform the manager on duty if they have come in contact with an infectious disease
- If a parent is unsure that a child is ill, the child can attend. However, if the child's condition deteriorates, then the provisions outlined in this policy are followed which may result in the manager on duty requesting that the child be collected
- If a child was administered medication (calpol, nurofen etc.) before being dropped to the centre in the morning, then parents are required to inform the staff at drop off
- If a child suddenly becomes ill while attending seed to tree Childcare, staff immediately contact the child's parents about the concerns regarding their child's health and well-being and the procedures that the staff are taking according to our policies.
- If staff are unable to contact parents, the next name on the emergency list is contacted.
- If a child requires one to one attention and the centre cannot facilitate this at the time, parents will be asked to collect their child immediately.
- If a child is vomiting or has diarrhoea, parents will be required to collect their child immediately Staff will do their best to keep a child presenting with symptoms of illness separate from other children. However, this may not always be possible.
- A plan will be drawn up to help prevent the spread of the illness and the *HSE guidelines: Managing an infectious disease in childcare setting* will be followed.
- Communication will issue to parents if there is an infectious disease circulating in Service.
- Notifications will be placed on our noticeboard should any outbreaks be ongoing in service

Exclusion criteria

- The following ailments will be grounds for the exclusion of children and colleagues from the childcare service;
- A temperature of 38°C or above (that requires medication to reduce) – whether it occurs at home before arriving at the service or while attending the service - for 24 hours
- Diarrhoea – for a full 48 hours after the last episode. Siblings will also be excluded.
- Vomiting – for a full 48 hours after the last episode. Siblings will also be excluded



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- Acute symptoms of food poisoning/gastro-enteritis
- Head Lice or nits - before treated 6. An infectious / contagious condition
- A child who is on an antibiotic for less than 48 hours
- A deep, hacking cough
- Severe congestion
- Difficulty breathing or untreated wheezing
- Eye discharge.
- Strep throat
- Recognised Rubella
- Covid-19
- A child that complains of a stiff neck and headache with one or more of the above symptoms.
- Infectious skin disorders (a doctor's note will be required explaining any rash on your child's body and confirming it is not contagious)
- Adults and children with active TB disease must be excluded until they are no longer infectious.

Notifiable disease:

- A list of notifiable diseases is available from the [HSE](#). In the case of notified diseases or if the illness spreads the manager will notify the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate by filling out the [Notification of Incidents Form](#) and the HSE Public Health Department.
- When we have been contacted by the Department of Public Health, HSE, in our area and have been advised that we have a confirmed case as listed we will contact Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate. The Department of Public Health Medicine will advise as to the next steps regarding precautions to be taken in our premises and follow up of contacts and procedures.
- Parents will be informed verbally and in writing if an outbreak has occurred – all reasonable information on the outbreak will be provided to them.
- Tusla will be notified of any incidence of COVID-19 in the setting

Exclusion Periods

These are the minimum exclusion periods as recommended by the HSE. Service may impose longer periods if we have a concern:

Chicken pox	Until scabs are dry; this is usually 5-7 days after the appearance of the rash.
Conjunctivitis	Exclusion will be implemented if there is an instance of conjunctivitis - an affected child will be excluded until after the child receives one treatment and until the eye is no longer showing signs of being contagious (producing sticky pus, and is red and feeling gritty).
Diarrhea:	48 hours from last episode



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Food poisoning:	Until authorised by GP.
Head Lice:	Exclusion is not necessary [if treated]
Hepatitis A: (Yellow Jaundice, Infectious Hepatitis):	Recommended while the child feels unwell, or until 7 days after onset of jaundice, whichever is later.
Impetigo:	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 24 hours after commencing antibiotics.
Scarlet Fever	Children can return 48 hours after commencement of antibiotic treatment.
Flu (Influenza)	Until recovered
Shingles	Exclusion only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered.
Mumps:	The child should be excluded for 5 days after the onset of swelling.
Pharyngitis/Tonsillitis:	If the disease is known to be caused by a streptococcal (bacterial) infection, the child or member of staff should be kept away from the service until 24 hours after the start of treatment. Otherwise, a child or member of staff should stay at home while they feel unwell.
Ringworm:	Children need not be excluded from service once they commence treatment.
Rubella:	For 7 days after onset of the rash and whilst unwell.

Last Review Date of this policy: 11-Jul-2024

Signed: Pooja Patidar

Date: 11-Jul-2024

Name: Pooja Patidar

Person responsible for approving the Policy.