

## Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

### Advice on Illness Policy

1. Parents/caregivers are expected to collect their child without delay if he/she is ill.
2. Children (and staff) with diarrhoea, vomiting, fever and/or undiagnosed skin rashes should not remain at the childcare centre (except for the time it takes parents/caregivers to collect the child from the centre).
  - *Diarrhoea or loose stools present a particular risk, even if the cause is not an infectious disease, as it makes it difficult to maintain normal hygiene. Even micro-organisms (germs) that normally present in the gut can cause health problems if consumed (e.g. passed into the mouth by contaminated hands or objects).*
3. While an ill child is waiting for parents to collect them from the centre, they should be made comfortable and kept isolated from other children and staff, and a staff member remain with them at all times.
4. To minimise risk, this staff member must not be involved with food preparation.
5. In general, if children experience vomiting and/or diarrhoea they should not attend the centre until 48 hours after all symptoms have stopped.
6. Children and staff who are unwell should otherwise stay at home as per medical advice or current Auckland Regional Public Health Service recommendations.
7. If in doubt, contact the Auckland Regional Public Health Service, ph (09) 623 4600 (24hrs/7days).

### Isolation Area

We suggest that an isolation area has the following characteristics:

1. A well-ventilated, warm, quiet area where sick babies and children can be looked after away from other children.
2. Separate from all food preparation and sleeping areas.
3. Sleeping facilities appropriate to the ages of children enrolled are available (including a cot/bed/stretchers/nursing chair fitted with a waterproof cover, and clean bedding and linen).

### Regular Reminders to Parents

We suggest that the following messages be included in enrolment information and brought to parents' attention regularly through newsletters, notice boards etc:

1. Parents are expected to collect their child without delay if he/she becomes ill.
2. The centre is required by law to exclude your child until well.
3. In general, if children experience vomiting and/or diarrhoea they should not attend the centre until 48 hours after all symptoms have stopped.
4. Children should otherwise be kept away from centre as per advice from your doctor, or as the centre has been advised by Auckland Regional Public Health Service.

Regulation 56 (2) & 57 (2), Education (Early Childhood Service) Regulation 2008