



## **Infection Control Policy**

### **Policy Statement**

It is the priority of Clondrohid Community After School Services 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. This policy is available and communicated to all parents, children and staff. This policy has been updated in line with current guidance the [HSPC Infection Prevention and Control guidance for services providing childcare during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), the DCYA's [Return to Work Safely Protocol](#) and [Tusla's Children Services Regulations Guidance Document for Early Years Services: COVID-19](#)

### **Principle**

This policy is underwritten by the the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and the Child Care Regulations (The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services)( Amendments) Regulations 2016. and the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework.

***This policy is available to parents, staff & relevant stakeholders through our website, parent's/employee handbook and on hardcopy if requested.***

**Procedure for exclusion due to illness: (Please see table attached)** *It is very clear from our Infection Control policy that if a child or a Practitioner is suffering from any of the list of contagious diseases below they are asked to not bring their child into the service if it's a Practitioner they are to contact their supervisor to inform them and they also are required to stay away from the centre for up to 48 hours after the illness has abated.*

*The procedure for exclusion due to illness is if the child develops any of the above while they are in our care the parent will be phoned and asked to take the child home. If they are not in a position to collect the child they must send they nominated person on the list for collection to come to collect the child.*

**We are very strict on contagious diseases here in Clann Aire, if a child is suffering from vomiting, diarrhoea high temperature or unexplained rashes the parent is asked not to bring their child into the centre, if the child develops any of the above while they are in our care the parent will be called and asked to take the child home.**

**If a member of staff is suffering from vomiting, diarrhoea high temperature, cold sores or unexplained rashes they are asked not to come into work and to ring the supervisor to report their illness and they are asked not to return to work for 48 hours after their last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea.**

**If a child or a close relative of theirs has contracted a case of COVID 19 then we ask the parents to keep their child at home for 14 days. This is requested as per the guidelines issued by the HSE.**

**If a member of staff contracts the COVID -19 virus they will also be required to stay at home for 14 days until they get the all clear from their GP.**

If we have an outbreak of any contagious disease including **COVID-19** in the centre the following procedure follows:

If the child gets sick or has a bout of diarrhoea their clothes are removed by a childcare worker wearing protective gloves. Their clothes are put into a bag and sealed they are then given to the parent going home,(clothes cannot be sluiced down as it may spread the infection). The childcare worker removes their gloves washes their hands & re-dresses the child.

The area is sprayed with the anti-bacterial spray, disinfected and allowed dry.

Hands are washed again.

Children are isolated from the area and everything is laid out on a table or a cloth on the floor and sprayed/misted with an anti-bacterial spray and left to air dry.

Each area/room has its own cleaning routine and it's followed religiously and documented daily

Nappy changing routines are followed in each changing room there is a procedure in each area to which carers are asked to follow.

The kitchen area has its own cleaning routine and only trained staff in food preparation and HACCP work in this area.

Hand Washing and good respiratory hygiene is the most important way of stopping the spread of inf

#### **Hand washing**

- Clondrohid Community After School Services has a hand washing policy which all staff promote and model for children, after using the toilet, before eating/preparing food, after wiping noses, waste disposal and mopping up spills.
- Staff must wash their hands, before preparing or serving food, before eating or drinking, after going to the toilet, assisting children going to the toilet, dealing with bodily fluids, cleaning procedures, caring for sick children, handling soiled clothing, dealing with waste and after removing disposable gloves.
- A wash hand basin is provided in each room with a constant supply of hot (no greater than 43c) and cold running water, liquid anti-bacterial soap and paper towels. A wash hand basin is also available in all bathrooms, kitchens and activity rooms.
- Children are encouraged to wash their hands with warm water and liquid soap under supervision after visiting the toilet, before eating, after sneezing, coughing or blowing noses, after handling animals, after touching a cut or sore and after outside play and activities. Clear guidance on hand washing is outlined for children and staff alike in our service.
- Staff will supervise and assist children to encourage effective hand washing, appropriate to their age.

The following steps are in place to prevent the spread of infection.

#### **Prevention & Infection control measures:**

- All childcare practitioners promote, encourage and model hand washing for children, after using the toilet, before eating/preparing food, after wiping noses, waste disposal and mopping up spills.
- Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they have an infectious illness in line with our **Illness and Exclusion Policy**.
- Practitioners will also adhere to our illness and exclusion policy.
- When a child/ staff member is diagnosed with an infectious disease, the HSE guidelines for exclusion will be followed.
- Daily cleaning schedules are in place and records kept.
- We have a contract with a bin removal company for the removal and disposal of all waste at our centre.
- Our centre carries and maintains a good stock of cleaning products and tools to ensure that good hygiene practices can be carried out at all times.

#### **Hygiene Procedure:**

All childcare practitioners are aware of their role in maintaining high standards of hygiene.

- Toilets, floors, tables and chairs and other areas are cleaned numerous times throughout the day to help decrease the spread of infection.
- A wash hand basin is provided in each room with a constant supply of hot and cold running water, liquid anti-bacterial soap and paper towels. A wash hand basin is also available in all bathrooms, nappy changing areas and kitchens.
- Hand Sanitisers are placed outside every room and to be used on entry of the room.
- Children are encouraged to wash their hands under supervision after visiting the toilet, before eating, after cleaning their nose, coughing or sneezing and after they go outside.
- Nappy changing area is wiped down after every use and there is a nappy changing procedure in place.
- Wet and soiled nappies are disposed of in our nappy bins. They are emptied daily.
- Potties are emptied and cleaned after each use if children bring in their potties from home and are left in the crèche.
- Childcare practitioners always wear gloves and aprons when changing nappies, cleaning, preparing and serving food and wash hands after removing gloves.
- Toys or other play materials are not allowed in the toilet area
- Childcare practitioners must wash their hands, before preparing or serving food, before feeding children, before eating or drinking, after going to the toilet, assisting children going to the toilet, nappy changing, dealing with bodily fluids, cleaning procedures, caring for sick children, handling soiled clothing, dealing with waste and after removing disposable gloves and after cleaning or wiping down any area/toys.
- All cots and beds are cleaned with disinfectant after each use daily.
- All linen is washed once per week and more frequently if necessary. Children do not share bed clothes and all sheets and blankets are labelled and stored separately.
- Soothers that are left in the centre are sterilised with boiling water.
- Growbag's and any comforters will be kept in the crèche and sent home at the end of the week to be washed.

### **Cleaning blood and body fluid spillages**

When childcare practitioners need to clean up blood or body fluid;

- The children need to be kept away from the spillage
- Get gloves, apron, paper roll, disinfectant spray and a bin liner.
- Put on gloves
- Use the white roll to clean up the fluid and put in the bin liner
- Spray the area with the disinfectant spray and dry with the paper roll.
- Dry the area with paper roll
- Put all used paper roll and used gloves into the bin liner.
- Tie a knot on the top of the bag and dispose of in the main disposal bin outside.
- Wash hands.

### **Respiratory hygiene**

- Childcare practitioners should cover their mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing to prevent the spread of germs and wash their hands afterwards
- Childcare practitioners should encourage children to cover their mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing and to wash their hands afterwards
- There should be tissues available at all times to clean noses and a bin available to dispose of the used tissue
- Tissues should only be used once and then thrown away. The same tissue should never be used on different children
- The children have access to the outdoor area every day for at least a half hour
- The children's cots and beds are spaced at least 50cm apart within the same pod. Children who will be using the same sleep facility but from a different pod will be adhering to the social distance guidelines of being 60.96 cm/ 2ft apart.

### **Safe management of perishable foods**

All perishable foods are kept in the fridges in the kitchen area. The temperature of the fridge's are checked every morning and are recorded. The temperature must be in between 0-5 degrees Celsius. Perishable foods are not left at room temperature for more than 2 hours, if they are at room temperature for more than 2 hours they will have to be thrown away.

Children's bottles are stored in the Caterpillar room fridge in their milk kitchen. The temperature of the fridge is checked to ensure it's between 0-5 degrees Celsius daily. Once the bottle is taken out of the fridge it must be used within the 2 hours.

### **Procedure for Managing an infectious illness**

- Staff will report any illness to the manager/designated person in charge.
- If a child becomes unwell while attending any one of our services we take their temperature if it's raised we would endeavour to bring it down by loosening the child's clothes sponging them down & the parent is contacted to inform them of the situation. If need to administer temperature control medication we follow our **Medication Policy and Procedure**.
- Children should remain at home if they are suffering from general diarrhoea or vomiting for at least 48 hours.
- On contraction of the COVID 19 virus children will be asked to stay out for 14 days. All children are placed in play pods to restrict contact with other children and staff. Play pods help the containment and traceability of the COVID 19 virus.
- If there has been a confirmed case of an infectious illness in our setting we carry out a complete disinfectant cleaning of the room involved and we notify parents and staff.
- 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 local Tusla office and the HSE Public Health Department. The new Regulations detail infectious disease outbreaks as a notifiable event.
- When we have been contacted by the Department of Public Health Medicine, HSE, and we have been advised that we have a confirmed case as listed we must contact Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate. The Department of Public Health Medicine will advise us of 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.
- On our registration forms there is a section on immunisation record. Every parent needs to fill this section out for each child indicating what immunisations the child has received if any. If the parent has decided not to vaccinate their child it needs to be written in this section of the registration form. We need to make it clear that the child is at risk of infectious disease when they are not vaccinated. The childcare practitioners in the room with a child that is not vaccinated needs to be aware of this. If there is a confirmed case of an infectious disease that the child is not vaccinated against, the childcare practitioner needs to ring that parent and make them aware of it. The child will need to stay out of the centre until we know get notification that it is safe for the child to return.

This policy was updated by: Clondrohid Community Crèche, Pre-School & After-School services

Date: Jan 2021

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of the Management, Staff & Parents

