

### **Seirbhís Iarscoil Infection Control**

Comharchumann Forbartha an Leith Triúigh have updated their policies regarding the operation of the Afterschool Service. The following Infection Control Policy is available for review on our website [www.cflt.ie](http://www.cflt.ie) and at Halla le Chéile.

Infections can be kept under control in the following ways: The reason that procedures to restrict infections are adopted is to reduce the number of germs to a level that is not a threat to public health. The primary ways in which a manager/provider can do this is to ensure that the staff receive continual and comprehensive training on restricting infections (e.g. basic hygiene procedures such as the importance attached to washing your hands, food hygiene, cleaning, etc.). The policy to restrict infections will ensure that hygiene measures will be put in place properly and that the danger of infections to children and the staff will be reduced. A sink and hot water must always be present in every room for cleaning purposes.

#### **Restricting Sickness and Infectious**

- The policy of Afterschool Service regarding restricting sickness and infections is that a child or member of staff who is sick will not attend the service for his/her own health and safety, and for the health and safety of the other children and the staff.
- Contagious diseases can greatly affect the health of infants and young children.
  - There are various ways in which infections can be contracted:
    - Direct contact with people or infected animals
    - Contracting an infection from bodily germs
    - Transmission from hand to mouth
    - In the air
    - Indirect transmission e.g. toys, door knobs, toilets, floors, tables, etc.
    - From insects, pests, animals
    - Through direct transmission from person to person.

#### **Contagious Diseases**

- The staff of the Afterschool Service will call the child's parents/guardians. If she/he can not get in touch with the child's parents/guardians, she/he will call the doctor and inform him of the child's symptoms as she/he sees them.
- An arrangement will be made for a doctor to examine the children and staff of Afterschool Service.
- Accurate information about the particular disease will be retained.
- No person, staff or children will be permitted into the Afterschool Service until the disease has cleared.
- Tusla must be notified within 3 days in the event of a contagious disease.



The parent/guardian has an obligation to inform the Afterschool Service or the person in charge, if their child has a contagious disease or sickness. The staff cannot take care of the child until she/he has been medically treated and until the disease is no longer contagious. The parents/guardians of the other children must be informed of the contagious disease. If the child has an infectious disease, or if a child comes into contact with an infectious disease, e.g. measles/meningitis/mumps, it is important that the Afterschool Service be notified of this so that she/he can inform all parents/guardians about the disease.

The following procedures will be followed:

- It is advised that parents/guardians be informed in writing outlining the appropriate details in relation to the disease.
- A notice will be posted on the notice board outlining the appropriate details regarding the disease.
- A form notifying Tusla of a contagious disease must be forwarded to [ey.registrations@tusla.ie](mailto:ey.registrations@tusla.ie)

#### **Exclusion of Children and Staff due to Illness:**

- The person in charge on the day, must inform the Manager about any Case of contagious sickness or such.
- The person in charge on the day must record all the details given to her/him by members of staff, or the child's parents/guardians, in relation to the sickness.
- Should a child fall sick in the Afterschool Service contact will be made immediately with the parent/guardian/carer.
- Tusla must be notified within 3 day of any infectious diseases
- The exclusion period for various illnesses as set out by the doctor
- Unwell children and staff should only return to Named Service when they have fully recovered. The exclusion notes in the HSE guidelines "Managing an infectious disease in Childcare setting"
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#### **Hand washing**

The most important ways to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory illness to wash your hands. Please note the following;

- The best method is to use liquid soap, warm water and disposable paper towels.
- Staff and Children should always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals and after coming inside after outside play.
- Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings.

#### **Cleaning Programme**



Cleaning is very important as germs do not have anywhere to live once dirt has been removed. You should clean regularly (particularly in high-risk areas), instead of once a week. You should clean areas like the kitchen and bathroom “as you go”.

Refer to the “Guide-to-Infection-Prevention-Control-for-Childcare-Facilities-An-Information-Booklet-for-Childcare-Workers.pdf” that is available to all staff member on more detail.

### **Immunisation**

Our immunisation policy is followed at all times with all children and staff.

- On enrolment, parents are asked for their child’s immunisation record, this information is recorded on the child’s record card.
- Parents/guardians of children who are not immunised are made aware of the dangers of infectious diseases. Parents are encouraged to keep to up to date with current vaccination requirements and to ensure that the service is kept informed and the child’s record updated when required.
- Parents/guardians are not required to have their children immunised to gain admission to the service but where a child’s immunisation record is not up-to-date parents/guardians are encouraged to have their child vaccinated. If a child is not immunised, parents/guardians are advised that their children will be excluded from the service during outbreaks of some vaccine preventable diseases such as Measles, Whooping Cough etc., even if their child is well. This is to protect their non-immunised child.