

Illness and Infectious Disease Policy

RATIONALE

At Karori Childcare Centre, the health and mana atua of our tamariki, whānau, and wider community are paramount.

- We acknowledge that there will be times when illness affects tamariki, requiring them to rest and recover at home.
- Keeping unwell tamariki at home supports their healing and protects the well-being of others in our centre.
- We understand the impact this can have on whānau, and we aim to work in partnership to ensure all decisions are reasonable, practical, and grounded in medical advice and current public health guidelines.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Communication and Consultation

- Whānau are encouraged to share any health concerns at drop-off to help kaiako monitor their tamaiti.
- If a tamaiti becomes unwell while at the Centre, kaiako will inform whānau as soon as possible.
- Open and honest communication helps ensure the safety and comfort of all tamariki.

Whānau Responsibilities

- Provide up-to-date emergency contact information (including a secondary contact).
- Inform kaiako if their tamaiti has had medication before arriving.
- Collect unwell tamariki within one hour of being contacted.
- Keep their tamaiti at home until they are well enough to return to group care.
- Seek medical advice if concerned about the health of their tamaiti.

Kaiako Responsibilities

- Contact whānau if a tamaiti shows signs of illness.

If the centre is operating at Level 2, *heightened illness activity*, or Level 3, *outbreak response* (see Appendix A), kaiako will apply heightened caution when assessing children's health and may require children to be collected if they are observed to be displaying symptoms consistent with the illness.

- If the primary contact cannot be reached, call the listed secondary contact.
- Provide first aid and comfort as needed.

- Ensure tamariki rest in a quiet, warm, and ventilated space while waiting to be collected.
- Keep a daily health record (symptoms, food, temperature, medication).
- Seek medical assistance if a condition of tamaiti worsens.
- May suggest whānau contact a GP or Public Health for guidance.

Note: Pamol/Paracetamol is not kept on site for general use. It may only be administered with written consent and only if prescribed for a specific illness and timeframe. Overuse can be dangerous.

When a Tamaiti Is Not Collected Promptly

- **First instance:** A reminder letter outlining this policy.
- **Second instance:** Formal notification indicating a breach and potential consequences.
- **Third instance:** A meeting with whānau, the Senior kaiako, and the Governance Committee Chairperson.

Conflict Resolution

- If there is disagreement about whether a tamaiti is fit to attend, Public Health Service advice will guide the Centre's decision.
- GP advice is respected, but public health guidance may take precedence concerning infection control.

GENERAL CONDITIONS REQUIRING ABSENCE

Tamariki should stay home if:

- They cannot comfortably participate in Centre activities.
- They require more care than the Centre can reasonably provide without compromising the health and safety of others.
- They have a fever, are lethargic, or show signs of severe illness.
- They have been hospitalised (must remain home for at least 24 hours, unless cleared by a GP).

SPECIFIC ILLNESS GUIDELINES

- **Diarrhoea** – Stay home until at least one normal bowel motion has occurred. If accompanied by vomiting, nausea, or fever, tamaiti must be symptom-free for 48 hours.
- **Vomiting** – Stay home for at least 48 hours from the last symptom, unless a known non-contagious cause is confirmed.
- **Mouth sores** – Stay home unless cleared as non-infectious by a GP.
- **Rash with fever or behavioural change** – GP clearance required to confirm non-contagious illness.
- **Respiratory infections** – Stay home if coughing, sneezing, or nasal discharge is excessive or infection-based.

- **Skin infections** – Stay home if wounds can't be covered. Return allowed after 24 hours of treatment.
- **Conjunctivitis** – Stay home until eye discharge has stopped and/or until guidance & medication are received from GP.
- **Antibiotic treatment** – Tamariki must stay home for the first 24 hours of a new course.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONTACT

Public Health Advisors for Early Childhood Education Services are available for guidance on:

- Infectious diseases
- Hygiene practices
- Infection control

Contact: Regional Public Health – 04 570 9002