

## Keeping everyone well: School Exclusion Guidelines

The National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines on preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services state the following:

“Due to the close contact of young children, who often put things in their mouth and who do not cover their coughs and sneezes there is a great opportunity for airborne and direct contact transmission of viruses and bacteria”.

**The most important prevention strategies are to:**

- **Keep unwell children at home**
- Encourage children’s cough and sneeze etiquette – *cough into your elbow, cover your mouth*
- *Effective hand washing and environmental cleaning*
- *Excluding one ill/infectious person – protects many others from becoming ill*

Our attempt to reduce children and educators becoming unwell is reliant on all families respecting the **following exclusion guidelines to keep unwell children at home:**

- For at least 24 hrs following the last vomit or diarrhoea
- Until all blisters are dry for chicken pox or hand, foot and mouth
- Whilst a wet cough persists – the first 24 - 48 hrs of a cold when coughing and spraying
- Until a rash has disappeared
- Until a fever has subsided without the use of paracetamol
- If a child has required paracetamol overnight, please consider if they may be well enough to come to school. Please also inform their teacher on arrival.

**Parents will be asked to collect children who:**

- vomit
- have diarrhoea
- develop a rash or fever or blisters
- have discharging eyes
- are generally unwell

### Medication

If your child requires medication whilst in our care, we require you to complete an ‘Authorisation Form’ obtained from the office or easily printed from the Communication/Policies & Forms page. We are unable to administer medication without authorisation.

***Please ensure that you have provided the school with up to date emergency contact numbers and Have a back-up plan if your child has to remain home due to illness.***

*Thank you for your assistance in keeping all children and staff well.*

### Additional information

WA’s Department of Health has a range of health related fact sheets covering topics such as **Headlice**, **Chickenpox** and **Whooping Cough**. More information is available at:

[http://www.health.wa.gov.au/publications/subject\\_index/](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/publications/subject_index/).