

Illness Policy

The well-being of all children who attend the service and the staff employed is of the highest priority. Young children can become sick in a very short time and staff should be aware of the signs and symptoms of illness in children. It is essential staff are sensitive and responsive to children when sick and showing signs of distress. Reducing the spread of infectious disease and hygiene practices are also important in the management of sick children and staff.

Staff, as well as parents and clients, should play an active role in minimising the spread of illness at GGSP. Parents should notify GGSP when they or their child is ill, or diagnosed as having an infectious disease, and by keeping the child home until they are well and all period of exclusion are adhered to.

Common Illnesses and Exclusion Periods

Vomiting/Diarrhoea

Should a child have diarrhoea and/or vomiting, they will need to be excluded from GGSP for a period of 48 hours since their last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea, unless a 'clearance letter' is provided by the child's doctor stating that the diarrhoea or vomiting are no longer contagious.

High Temperatures / Fevers

In the case of a fever (over 38°C) the child will need to go home as soon as possible as this indicates the body is fighting an infection which may be contagious. The child should not attend an appointment at GGSP with a high temperature, nor should a GGSP staff member attend a home visit.

Head Lice

Head lice is not only extremely uncomfortable for a child (being bitten on the head continuously), but also very inconvenient for parents, having to treat and remove the head lice (for the whole family) and also washing sheets, hats etc. Head lice should be treated at home and the client should inform GGSP as soon as all head lice and eggs have been removed. Generally, one head lice treatment will not kill the eggs, therefore it is important that all eggs are removed from the hair and a follow-up treatment done seven days later in case eggs were missed and have hatched.

Conjunctivitis

The client should not attend services at GGSP until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis.

Fungal infections e.g. ringworm, tinea

The client should not attend GGSP until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

The client should not attend GGSP until all blisters have dried.

Human parvovirus B19 (fifth disease, slapped cheek) Not excluded Impetigo (school sores)

The client should not attend GGSP until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started. Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing.

Influenza or influenza-like illnesses

The client should not attend GGSP until the person is well.

Varicella (chickenpox)

The client should not attend GGSP until all blisters have dried – this is usually at least five days after the rash first appeared in non-immunised children, and less in immunised children.

Client consideration regarding all such health matters will contribute immensely to the maintenance of a healthy environment for all GGSP staff and clients.

Infectious Disease Outbreak

Acute infectious disease outbreaks are common. The early identification of possible outbreaks within GGSP is essential for minimising the transmission of infection to others. The categories of illness recognised to cause exposure and possible outbreaks at GGSP include communicable diseases that may have been acquired in the community. This includes:

- Infectious gastroenteritis
- Respiratory illnesses
- Influenza
- Tuberculosis
- Whooping cough
- Viral illness
- Measles virus
- Varicella zoster virus – Chicken Pox (Varicella)
- Blood borne viruses –HIV, HBV, HCV
- Head lice
- Scabies
- Hand Foot and Mouth
- And more.

Home isolation and quarantine

During a severe pandemic, symptomatic individuals may be recommended to remain in home or hospital isolation and this may be extended to exposed contacts (i.e. home quarantine). Both methods are important ways of reducing further virus transmission. GGSP encourages staff and clients who are symptomatic to not attend GGSP until their symptoms have passed, or if they can prove a negative PCR or RA test. Clients may choose to attend appointments via telehealth.