**Protocols for BEPS OSHC during COVID-19 13/07 – 18/09 Term 3**

There are a range of actions that early childhood education and care services can take to reduce coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission, including physical distancing and transmission reduction.

BEPS OSHC will continue to operate a reduced service with risk mitigation measures in place. These will include:

**Risk mitigation measures**

* exclusion of unwell staff, children and visitors
* reduce mixing of children by separating cohorts (including the staggering of meal and play times)
* enhanced personal hygiene for children, staff and parents
  + liquid soap and running water, alcohol-based hand sanitiser is available at the entrance of the facility and throughout
* full adherence to the NHMRC childcare cleaning guidelines, in addition:
  + clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces at least daily (e.g. play gyms, tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets, sinks)
  + wash and launder play items and toys including washable plush toys as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely
* it is recommended to have the influenza vaccination for children, staff and parents.

Alternative care arrangements should be considered for those children highly vulnerable to adverse outcomes should they be infected with COVID-19. AHPPC recommends parents seek medical advice for these children.

**Restrictions on entry into BEPS OSHC**

Parents and cares will not be allowed on site; OSHC Educators will sign children in and out of the service. Families will need to call the service to have their child brought to the gate for pick-up and drop off.

The following staff and children should not be permitted to enter the facility:

* Those who have returned from overseas in the last 14 days.
* Those who have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
  + A contact is defined as anyone who has been in contact with a known case, including the 24 hours before the case became symptomatic.
* Those with fever or symptoms of acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath) symptoms.

There has been an absence of outbreaks in ECLC globally, however there is clear evidence that children are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. The role that children play in transmission and amplification of COVID-19 remains largely unknown and AHPPC will continue to closely monitor the evidence as it emerges to inform public health policy.

**Learning and office spaces**

* Routine environmental cleaning should be extended, including progressive cleaning throughout the day to ensure that risks of transmission are reduced for high-touch services.
* Windows should be open during the day to promote air flow where possible.
* Hand sanitisers (or soap and water) and tissues should be made available in all learning and office spaces.
* Consider the setup of the room and the placement of the activities and limit the number of whole group activities. Children should be spaced out as much as possible. For table activities, set up activities only at each end of the table.
* Set up more individual activities throughout the room. Rather than having all of your books and blocks on one shelf, set them up in separate areas throughout the room if possible.
* Rather than having group times where everyone is sitting on the mat, using informal opportunities to engage with the children/read books/do storytelling with one or two children at a time throughout the day.
* Increased frequency of cleaning toys. Sharing of toys that have been placed in mouths should be monitored and avoided.
* Mixing of staff and children between rooms should be avoided where possible. It is acknowledged that staff may need to move between rooms to support breaks and, in these situations, staff should be reminded of the importance of hand hygiene.
* One staff member in each room; OSHC room and Hall. Only one staff member should use the OSHC office at one time.

***Breakfast and afternoon tea***

* Breakfast and afternoon tea must be provided from home to reduce the risk of transmission and waste management – children must take all packaging and waste home.
* Sharing of food should be actively monitored and discouraged.
* Spacing between children during eating times
* Staggered timings of breakfast and afternoon tea over a longer period of time.

***Outdoor play***

* Inside and outside activities will be provided as usual.

***Routine care***

* Standard precautions are advised when coming into contact with someone for the purpose of providing routine care and/or assistance (for example, the use of gloves for changing someone)
* Staff must always wash hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitiser before and after performing routine care.

***First aid***

* Standard precautions should be adopted when providing first aid, e.g. gloves and apron to use when dealing with blood or body fluids/substances.
* Always wash hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitiser before and after providing first aid.
* Additional PPE (for example, face masks) is not required to provide standard first aid on children or staff who appear to be well. Hand hygiene, cough etiquette and environmental cleaning are more important for reducing risk.

***Management of an unwell child, or staff member***

* Staff or children experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus (COVID-19), such as fever, cough or sore throat, should be isolated in an appropriate space with suitable supervision and collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible.
* In this situation, where staff or children are experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus (COVID-19), important actions to take include hand hygiene, physical distance and where possible putting on a face mask.
* Urgent medical attention should be sought where indicated.
* All children with a health care plan should ensure this is up-to-date and that it provides additional advice, where required, on monitoring and identification of the unwell child in the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
* Follow cleaning guidance according to the situation of the case. If a child spreads droplets (e.g. by sneezing, coughing or vomiting), clean surfaces immediately with disinfectant wipes

***Hygiene Best Practice***

**Staff, families and children can protect against infections by practising good hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene.**

**Here are some tips that everyone at our service can follow:**

* Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing, or cough into your elbow.
* Dispose of the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.
* Wash your hands often, after using the toilet and before eating.

BEPS OSHC Management

15th July 2020