

TAMAITI HEALTH POLICY

- Rationale:** The health and wellbeing of the tamariki attending our centre is paramount to us. We are dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of all the tamariki and staff attending the centre.
- Purpose:** To promote tamaiti and staff health and eliminate the spread of illness as much as possible.
- NELPS:** **Objective 2 , Priority 3** Ensure disabled learners/ākonga and staff, those with learning support needs, and neurodiverse learners/ākonga, are safe and included in their early learning service, and their needs are supported

Procedures:

- Tamariki and adults who are sick are not to be present at the Centre.
- All practicable steps are taken to ensure tamariki do not come into contact with any person (adult or tamaiti) on the premises who is suffering from a disease or condition likely to be passed on to tamariki and likely to have a detrimental effect on them (HS26).
- The well-being of the tamariki and staff is paramount. If a tamaiti arrives at the Centre and is clearly unwell, staff and management reserve the right to ask the parent/caregiver to take the tamaiti home immediately.
- Tamariki may be excluded from the Centre if they display any of the following symptoms: They will be excluded if they are vomiting or have diarrhoea.
 - COVID-19 Symptoms (in effect until further notice)
 - Cough
 - Fever
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Temporary loss of smell

These symptoms are similar to a range of other illnesses, like influenza. Having them doesn't mean a person has COVID-19, but you should remain vigilant and follow the centre's processes for managing infectious illnesses.

Shortness of breath can indicate pneumonia and requires urgent medical attention.

Tamariki with asthma, hay fever, allergies, ear infections or other acute or chronic conditions may have similar symptoms and do not pose an infection risk to other tamariki. Any tamaiti that is sick should still go home.

- Have had vomiting and or diarrhoea in the last 48 hours
- Have had a temperature in the last 24 hours.
- Have sticky eyes (until treated and the eyes have stopped oozing)
- Constantly want to be held.
- Cry easily, are irritable or in pain.
- Have little interest in activities or play, little energy and need or want to sleep for long periods of time.
- Have a constant clear runny nose.
- Have green discharge from the nose.
- Persistent cough.
- Unidentified rash/blisters/spots
- Difficulty breathing
- **Temperature over 38°C**

Tamariki who have a temperature of 37.5, will be monitored closely. Their parents/whānau will be called to be advised of this. Every half hour after or earlier the temperature was taken Kaiako will take another reading to make sure there is no rapid increase, if there is the tamaiti parent's/whānau will be rung and advised of the next steps.

- Tamariki who have been ill with vomiting and/or diarrhoea are required to stay away from the centre for **at least 48 hours after last experiencing vomiting and/or diarrhoea.**
- If a tamaiti becomes unwell while at the Centre they will be immediately isolated from the other tamariki. Where possible the tamaiti will be taken to the office where a kaiako will care for the tamaiti until they are collected by their parent/guardian.
- In the case of a serious illness or temperature of 40° and over the Centre Manager will call an ambulance at the parents/whānau cost. Parents/whānau will also be contacted and informed of the situation and arrangements made to meet at the hospital.
- Any outbreak of illness will be prominently put onto story park.
- A tamaiti who has been prescribed antibiotics is required to stay away for at least 24 hours after treatment has started in order to allow the medication to take some affect on the infection.
- As paracetamol can mask underlying illnesses, we do not administer this at the centre unless it is prescribed by a doctor for the purposes of teething, sprains/strains or ear ache after the recovery of an ear infection. We do not hold paracetamol on site. Tamariki requiring paracetamol for any other ailment should not be at the Centre and will be asked to go home.
- An illness register is kept in the preschool. Kaiako will record the date, tamaiti name, description of illness, action taken, time parents notified, time collected. It will be signed by both the staff member and parent/caregiver on collection of the tamaiti. Tamaiti'

temperature will be recorded on our white board and placed in the illness record if they have been taken home.

- Kaiako will be responsible for checking tamariki temperatures. If staff have a concern about a tamaiti health they need to inform the centre manager.
- The Centre will follow the exclusionary periods and actions as deemed by the Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008 and Early Childhood Framework HS 26 Appendix 2.
- A poster and a notice will be displayed on the notice board and story park informing parents/caregivers of the exclusionary period for each specific childhood illness.
- Staff must abide by the same exclusionary periods in the event of illness.
- Tamariki will be asked to leave the Centre if they show symptoms of any of the following:

Illness	Exclusion Period
Chicken Pox	Please keep your tamaiti away from the centre for one week from the onset and until all blisters have dried.
Common Cold	Please keep your tamaiti away from the centre if they have an acute cold which includes all or some of the following symptoms; coughing, fever, or green discharge from nose.
Conjunctivitis	Conjunctivitis is highly contagious. If your tamaiti has a discharge from their eyes of any type, please stay away for away for 24 hours after treatment has started and oozing has stopped.
Giardia	Please keep your tamaiti away until they have been treated and all symptoms have ceased for at least 24 hours.
Hand, Foot & Mouth	Exclude from the centre until all blisters have healed.
Head Lice	Please check your tamaiti for head lice regularly as symptoms are not always obvious. Please remove nits from the tamaiti head before returning to the centre. The whole family will need to be treated.
Influenza	Please keep your tamaiti away until they feel well. They should not have any of the following symptoms: coughing, fever, or green discharge from nose.
Measles, Mumps & Rubella	Recovery times for these diseases are one week to 10 days. Please keep your tamaiti away from the centre for 4 days after any rash or swelling goes down.
Ringworm	Exclude from the centre until all lesions are healed.
Scabies	Please keep your tamaiti away for 48 hours after treatment is commenced. It is likely the whole family will need to be treated.
School Sores/Impetigo	Your tamaiti can return to the centre after treatment has been given and no lesions are weeping. Any sores must be properly covered up.

Slapped Cheek	Unnecessary unless well.
Streptococcal Sore throat	Exclude from service until 24 hours after antibiotics have been started.
Viral Gastroenteritis	The tamaiti may return to the centre 48 hours after the vomiting and/or diarrhoea have ceased.
Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea	The tamaiti may return to the centre 48 hours after the vomiting and/or diarrhoea have ceased.
Whooping Cough	Exclude the tamaiti from the centre for 5 days after treatment has commenced.

Refer to Ministry of Health Infectious Diseases chart for further information.

Prevention of Illness

- Preventing the spread of disease and illness among tamariki and staff by encouraging hand washing routines before food is eaten and after using the toilet.
- Tamariki with contagious illnesses or infectious diseases will be excluded from the centre for the appropriate exclusionary period. **If a tamaiti has had vomiting and/or diarrhoea they must remain at home for at least 48 hours after the symptoms have ceased.**
- Staff will wear gloves when changing nappies, wiping bottoms and cleaning up after a tamaiti has vomited.
- If a tamaiti becomes ill while at the Centre they will be isolated and their parents/whānau will be contacted to come and collect them.
- Staff and tamariki are required to wash their hands as per the Centre hand washing procedures, for example after blowing their nose.
- There is a weekly cleaning roster for toys. Cleaning will be more frequent if there is an outbreak of any illness.

Immunisation

- Immunisation certificates are copied and attached to enrolment forms upon enrolment.
- The immunisation register is maintained and updated by the Centre Manager on the discover software programme.
- If an outbreak of an illness at the Centre occurs which is covered by immunisation, unimmunised tamariki or those with no immunity will be excluded from the Centre for 14 days from their last contact with the infected person or until recovery based on advice from the medical officer of health.

Staff Sickness

- If a staff member becomes ill during a session, the Centre Manager will relieve until a relieving teacher can take their place.
- Kaiako with contagious illnesses or infectious diseases will be excluded from the centre for the appropriate exclusionary period. **If a kaiako member has had vomiting and/or diarrhoea they must remain at home for 24 hours after the symptoms have ceased.**
- The staff will follow the exclusionary periods and actions as deemed by the Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008 and Early Childhood Framework HS 26 Appendix 2.
- Staff must abide by the same exclusionary periods in the event of illness.
- If staff have been absent for more than three consecutive days, the centre manager or owner can ask for a medical certificate.
- If a staff member has had a communicable disease they may not return back to work until they have had written clearance from a doctor.

Date reviewed: April 2023

Signed:

Date of next review: April 2026