



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

POLICY STATEMENT

Lake Mac Newy OOSH is committed to providing a safe and hygienic environment that will promote the health and wellbeing of the children. We will take reasonable steps to reduce the chance of being infected or spreading COVID-19. Any ongoing release of information from authorities, our service will respond correctly to advice from the Australian Government, Department of Health, and State Ministry of Health.

Coronavirus [Cov] is a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from common cold to more severe diseases. A novel Coronavirus [nCov] is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. COVID-19 is the infectious disease known, caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 (World Health Organisation) and is declared a 'pandemic' - a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (effective 11 March 2020). This is mainly due to the speed and scale of transmission of the virus in countries around the world, including Australia.

COVID-19 is transmitted from someone who is infected with the virus to others in close contact through contaminated droplets spread by coughing or sneezing or by contact with contaminated hands or surfaces. According to Department of Health, the time of exposure to the virus and when symptoms first occur is anywhere from 2-14 days.

Symptoms can range from a mild illness, like a cold or flu, to pneumonia. People with COVID-19 may experience:

- Fever.
- Flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue; and
- Shortness of breath.

PROCEDURE:

The Australian Government is constantly updating the current status of COVID-19 including health recommendations, travel restrictions, and a vast collection of resources and information to help people make informed decisions. As this information is changing rapidly, our Service is constantly monitoring health alerts and implementing measures suggested by key health experts to minimise the transmission of COVID-19.

A) Prevention:

- Lake Mac Newy OOSH will implement effective hygiene practices as per our existing policies and procedures. We will ensure alcohol-based hand sanitiser is available for children and families at the parent sign/out desk and throughout the room to use when supplies are available. If parents decide to apply this to their child, they must supervise the child to avoid rubbing it into their eyes or a child swallowing the gel/liquid.
- Our Service has a range of comprehensive policies in place to guide best practice in relation to health and safety, dealing with infectious diseases and maintaining a child safe environment. Our duty of care and responsibilities to children, parents, families, and educators to provide a safe environment is of our utmost importance.



- Our Service will provide up-to-date information and advice to parents, families and educators sourced from the Australian Government, Department of Health, and state Ministry of Health about COVID-19 as it becomes available. Recommendations and health measures mandated by the Health Department will be strictly always adhered to.
- We are continuing to attend external excursions, however, are following all safety practices as requested by the Department of Education and NSW government and the venues. Risk Assessments are completed and available to families prior to any excursion.

In the event of supplies such as Tissues, Toilet Paper, Hand Towels, Soap, Hand Sanitiser and Disinfectants being limited to or not available to the consumer.

Cardiff South OOSH may not be able to keep up with the demand of sterilisation of all equipment and therefore some items which will include games and toys may be removed to help assist the spread of any infectious disease.

B) The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, educators, families, and visitors will comply with the following:

Exclusion/ Self-isolation/ Self-quarantine:

- Any staff that are feeling unwell are advised to stay at home and only return when they are symptom free. If a staff member attends and appears unwell, they will be sent home and encouraged to take a RAT if displaying Covid like symptoms and only return to the service when they are symptom free.
- Families are encouraged to keep any child at home that is unwell and if a child appears unwell whilst at the service, families will be contacted and asked to collect them and encouraged that their child take a RAT if displaying Covid like symptoms. Children will only return to the service when they are symptom free.
- Any staff member or child that tests positive must notify the service as soon as possible in writing.
- Whilst it is no longer mandatory in NSW to self-isolate if you test positive to Covid-19, if any child or staff member tests positive, they will be unable to attend the service for 5 days from the day of testing. After the 5 days if symptoms still remain, we encourage to stay at home until symptom free in line with the 'Incident, Injury, Illness and Trauma' policy feeling unwell. If a child or staff member have tested positive and return to the service after 5 days, but still have symptoms, they will be asked to wear a mask until they are symptom free. This will also apply to any family member that is positive and has symptoms and comes to the service to collect their child.



C) Social Distancing in Childcare:

Social distancing includes ways to stop or slow the spread of infectious diseases. It means less contact between you and other people.

Social distancing is important because COVID-19 is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- direct close contact with a person while they are infectious or in the 48 hours before their 1st positive RAT or PCR result.
- close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes, or
- touching objects or surfaces (such as door handles or tables) contaminated from a cough or sneeze from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

So, the more space between you and others, the harder it is for the virus to spread.

To reduce the spread of germs or viruses within our service, please adhere to the following:

- If your child is sick, do not send them.
- Sanitise your hands when entering our service and at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Please do not visit our Service if you are unwell or if picking up a child wear a mask.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly (door handles, car seats, phones, toys, sinks).
- Promote the highest level of hygiene measures when preparing food at home and at the Service.
- Where possible, outdoor play will be promoted within our Service to provide children with additional personal space.
- Ventilation within the Service will be increased by opening all windows and adjusting the air conditioning for more fresh air.
- We are continuing to attend external excursions during the vacation care period, however, are following all safety practices as requested by the Department of Education and NSW government and the venue.

D) Reporting outbreaks:

The Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor must notify the Regulatory Authority in their state or territory if they have 5 or more positive cases within a 7 day period.

E) What happens if our Service is forced to close?

The decision to close our Service will be made, and advised, by relevant state and territory governments or the Regulatory Authority. This may be due to an unforeseen outbreak of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our Service community. Should this occur, all families will be notified immediately via email, phone or OWNA. The Approved Provider will notify the Regulatory Authority within 24 hours of any closure via the NQA IT System. As childcare cannot be offered if our Service is forced to close, fees cannot be charged as per Family Assistance Law.



F) Absences

The Government has decreased the allowable CCS absences back from the additional Covid absences of 52 to 42 from the 2023-2024 financial year. Families may be able to get additional absences once they have used their allowable absence days, in certain circumstances such as Covid-19.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Education and Care Services National Law & Regulations	National Quality Standards & Elements	Links to other Service Policies	Other Documentation/ Evidence
S167 R 77, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 93, 162	Standard 2.1 Element 2.1.2 Element 2.1.2 Child Safe Standards 1,3,4,5,7,8,9,10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enrolment and Orientation, Providing a Child Safe Environment, Incident, Injury, Illness and Trauma, Medical Conditions and Administration of Medication, Dealing with Infectious Diseases. - Confidentiality Policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability Discrimination Act 1975 - NSW Anti-discrimination Act 1977 - Work Health and Safety Act 2011 - Staying Healthy in Child Care (5th Edition) - NSW Dept. of Health guidelines - Parent Handbook - Staff Handbook

ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:

Approval date: February 2025

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