

4.14 Infectious Diseases Response Strategy Policy

The service acknowledges the need for a coordinated approach to dealing with situations of infectious diseases in the community. The service shall implement a response strategy in accordance with government health guidelines for Infectious Disease Pandemic.

Procedures

The service shall:

- encourage basic hygiene techniques to prevent the spread of infectious disease
- encourage children and educators to stay at home should they present with symptoms of infectious disease.
- keep informed of current Pandemic Phases and shall follow the Australian Government Guidelines. Refer to the supporting information below.
- provide educators, families and the local community with information about the service's response to management of infectious disease as recommended by health authorities.

Supporting information on Pandemic Phases

The Australian Pandemic Phases describe whether the virus is in countries overseas (OS) or in Australia (AUS). Having an Australian system means that actions can be taken in Australia before a change of phase is declared by the World Health Organisation. The description of each phase is shown in the following table:

Australian phase	Description
ALERT	A novel virus with pandemic potential causes severe disease in humans who have had contact with infected animals. There is no effective transmission between humans. Novel virus has not arrived in Australia.
DELAY	Novel virus has not arrived in Australia. OS4 Small cluster of cases in one country overseas. OS5 Large cluster(s) of cases in only one or two countries overseas. OS6 Large cluster(s) of cases in more than two countries overseas.
CONTAIN	Pandemic virus has arrived in Australia causing small number of cases and/or small number of clusters.
SUSTAIN	Pandemic virus is established in Australia and spreading in the community.
CONTROL	Customised pandemic vaccine widely available and is beginning to bring the pandemic under control.
RECOVER	Pandemic controlled in Australia, but further waves may occur if the virus drifts and/or is re-imported into Australia.
PROTECT	Pandemic virus is mild in most but severe in some and moderate overall. This phase sits alongside CONTAIN and SUSTAIN phases with a greater focus on treating and caring for those more vulnerable to severe outcomes.

References

<http://www.flupandemic.gov.au/internet/panflu/publishing.nsf/Content/current-status-1> accessed 20/06/11

- Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011
- Australian Government Health Guidelines
- NQS Area: 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.1.4; 6.1.3; 7.3.1, 7.3.5.
Policies: 4.2 – Infectious Diseases, 4.4 – Preventative Health and Wellbeing, 8.10 – Employee Orientation and Induction, 9.3– Communication with Families, 9.4 – Communication with Community.

Date of Development	Reason for Modification	Date Ratified	Date of Review