

Illness and Infectious Disease Policy



At Willows Day Care Brecon we promote the good health of all children through maintaining high hygiene standards to help reduce the chances of infection being spread. We follow the guidance set by Public Health Wales Health Protection Team which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings and when treatment/medication is required (see below).

If a child is ill, they should not be brought to the Willows Day Care Brecon. If a child appears unwell on arrival, the child will not be accepted at the setting. Willows Day Care Brecon believes that the best place for an ill child is at home with their parents. If a child becomes ill whilst at the Willows Day Care Brecon the Code of Practice detailed below will be followed.

The aim of Willows Day Care Brecon is to ensure a safe and clean environment through maintaining the space and equipment and putting guidelines in place which allow staff to work safely without risk to themselves, the children or others.

We strive to manage and prevent infectious diseases in our setting by:

- Promoting our families to immunise their children and keep up to date with immunisations.
- Where parents do not immunise their children and in the event, we had an illness or infection within the setting which would potentially be of high risk to their child, we would advise the family to stay away from the setting until safe to return.
- Encouraging our staff to be immunised.
- Encouraging all our children and staff to carry out effective and routinely handwashing.
- Keeping our environment clean at all times.
- Following our health and hygiene procedures.
- Encouraging our children to cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and using tissues to wipe their runny noses, followed by handwashing.
- Wearing protective clothing, when necessary, for example an apron and disposable gloves when changing soiled nappies.
- Notifying all parents when there is an outbreak of an illness, 2 or more people experiencing similar illness that are linked in time or place.
- Following the exclusion table below

Code of Practice - procedure for responding to an ill child:

- Willows Day Care Brecon will follow Public Health Wales guidelines on exclusion periods for medical reasons. (See below)
- If a child develops an illness whilst at Willows Day Care Brecon the leader will contact the parents and ask them to collect the child as soon as is possible.
- If a member of staff suspects that a child in the care of Willows Day Care Brecon is suffering from a communicable disease, they must inform the leader at once. Willows Day Care Brecon will follow the guidelines laid out in the Public Health Wales document 'Infection Prevention and Control for Childcare Settings (0-5 years) Nurseries Child Minders and Playgroups All Wales Guidance (2019)'. (Refer to the list of useful contacts below.)
- If an incident of a communicable disease occurs at the setting, Willows Day Care Brecon will ensure that it shares information about its early symptoms with parents so that they are able to recognise them and keep their child/children at home and seek appropriate medical advice/treatment as required.
- With respect for the privacy of children and their families, the name[s] of the ill child/children will not be disclosed to other families.

- When an incident of a communicable disease occurs at the setting, all equipment and resources that have, or potentially have come into contact with the child/children will be thoroughly cleaned and sterilised.
- CIW will be notified of any infectious disease

Emergency Procedures

- If a child should need emergency medical treatment, and Willows Day Care Brecon is unable to contact the parents or any other emergency contacts, Willows Day Care Brecon will make the necessary arrangements to ensure the child's safety.
- Signing the Parent/Carer Contract and the registration form gives the Willows Day Care Brecon permission to authorise any emergency medical treatment that may be necessary.

Useful Links and Further Information

Public Health Wales document 'Infection Prevention and Control for Childcare Settings (0-5 years) Nurseries Child Minders and Playgroups All Wales Guidance (2019)

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/guidance/accordians/docs/infection-prevention-and-control-guidance-2019-for-childcare-settings-0-5-years-in-wales-nurseries-childminding-and-playgroups/>

All Wales Infection Prevention and Control for Education Settings Guidance

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/guidance/>

Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Childcare Settings (0-5 years) in Wales (Nurseries, Childminding and Playgroups)

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/guidance/>

Recommended Time to Keep Individuals Away from Settings because of Common Infections

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/guidance/>

Rashes and skin infections	Length of Time an individual is to be kept away from Setting	Comments
Unexplained rashes should be considered infectious until health advice is obtained.		
Athlete's foot	None	Athletes' foot is not a serious condition. Treatment is recommended
Chickenpox	5 days from onset of rash AND until all vesicles (blisters) have crusted over	Infectious for 2 days before onset of rash. <i>SEE: Vulnerable Individuals and Pregnancy (below)</i>
Cold sores, (Herpes simplex)	None	Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. Cold sores are generally mild and self-limiting.
German measles (rubella)*	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination and covered by the routine immunisation schedule (MMR x 2 doses). <i>SEE: Pregnancy (below)</i>
Hand, foot and mouth	None	Not to be confused with Foot and Mouth disease in animals
Impetigo	Until affected areas are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period
Measles*	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination and covered by the routine immunisation schedule (MMR x 2 doses). <i>SEE: Vulnerable individuals and Pregnancy (below)</i>
Molluscum contagiosum	None	A self-limiting condition
Ringworm	None	Keep covered. Treatment is recommended
Scabies	Affected individual can return after first treatment	Household and close contacts require concurrent treatment
Scarlet fever*	Individual can return 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment recommended for the affected individual.
Slapped cheek/Fifth disease/Parvovirus B19	None	<i>SEE: Vulnerable individuals and Pregnancy (below)</i>
Shingles	Individual only to be kept away from setting if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune i.e. have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch. If further information is required, contact the Health Protection Team. <i>SEE: Vulnerable individuals and Pregnancy (below)</i>
Warts and Verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms
Diarhoea and vomiting illness		
Diarhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	If there are more than two cases in a setting please inform the Health Protection Team/Environmental Health Officer
<i>E. coli</i> O157 VTEC* Typhoid [and paratyphoid] (enteric fever)* Shigella* (dysentery)	Should be kept away from the setting for 48 hours from the last episode of Diarrhoea. Some individuals may need to be kept away from the setting until they are no longer excreting the bacteria in their faeces. Always consult with the Health Protection Team/Environmental Health Officer	Individuals aged 5 years or younger those who have difficulty in maintaining good personal hygiene, food handlers and care staff need to be kept away from the setting until there is proof that they are not carrying the bacteria (microbiological clearance). Microbiological clearance may also be required for those in close contact with a case of disease. The Health Protection Team/Environmental Health Officer can provide advice is required.

Cryptosporidiosis	Keep away from setting for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea.	Individuals should not be permitted to swim for two weeks after the last bout of diarrhoea has ended.
Respiratory illnesses		
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered	SEE: <i>Vulnerable individuals (below)</i>
Tuberculosis*	Always consult the Health Protection Team	Requires prolonged close contact for spread
Whooping cough (pertussis)*	48 hours from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment	Preventable by vaccination and covered by the UK routine immunisation schedule. After treatment, non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks.
Other infections		
Conjunctivitis	None	If an outbreak/cluster occurs, consult the Health Protection Team
Diphtheria*	Must not attend setting. Always consult the Health Protection Team	Preventable by vaccination and covered by the UK routine immunisation schedule. Family contacts must be kept away from setting until cleared to return by the Health Protection Team. The Health Protection Team will consider the risk of any contact the individual has had with others if necessary.
Eye and ear infections	None. The Health Protection Team can advise if an affected individual needs to be kept away from the setting	As both viruses and bacteria can cause eye and ear infections, not all will require antibiotic treatment.
Glandular fever	None	Infectious for up to 7 weeks before symptoms start. Glandular fever can cause spleen swelling so avoid sports or activities that might increase risk of falling and damaging spleen.
Head lice	None	Treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen
Hepatitis A*	Individual should be kept away from the setting until seven days after onset of jaundice (or seven days after symptom onset if no jaundice)	In an outbreak of hepatitis A, the Health Protection Team will advise on necessary control measures
Hepatitis B*, C*, HIV	None	Hepatitis B and C and HIV are blood borne viruses that are not infectious through casual contact.
Meningococcal Meningitis* / septicaemia*	Until they have received the appropriate antibiotic. Always consult the Health Protection Team	Several types of meningococcal disease are preventable by vaccination. There is no reason to keep siblings or other close contacts of the individual from attending settings. In the case of an outbreak, the Health Protection Team will advise on any action needed.
Meningitis due to other bacteria*	None	Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) and pneumococcal meningitis are preventable by vaccination. There is no need for the Health Protection Team to identify people the individual has been in contact with. There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of the individual from settings. The Health Protection Team can advise on actions needed
Meningitis viral*	None	Milder illness. There is no need for the Health Protection Team to identify people the individual has been in contact with. There is no reason to exclude siblings and other close contacts of the individual from settings.
MRSA	None	Good hygiene, in particular hand washing and environmental cleaning, are important to minimise spread.
Mumps*	Five days after onset of jaw/neck swelling	Preventable by vaccination and covered by the routine immunisation schedule (MMR x 2 doses).
Threadworms	None	Treatment is recommended for the child and household contacts
Tonsillitis	None	There are many causes, but most cases are due to viruses and do not need an antibiotic.

*denotes a notifiable disease/organism. It is a statutory requirement that doctors report a notifiable disease to the proper officer of the local authority (usually a consultant in communicable disease control/Health Protection).

Where an illness is marked with a * we must notify the local authorities health protection agency immediately and CIW within 14 days.

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/guidance/accordians/docs/infection-prevention-and-control-guidance-2019-for-childcare-settings-0-5-years-in-wales-nurseries-childminding-and-playgroups/>