



<div>SCAMPS+ SCHOLARS</div> <div>Killorglin Community Childcare Centre CLG</div>			<div>INFECTION CONTROL POLICY</div>		
POLICY NO.:	CCP No. 12	REV. NO.:	7	REV. DATE:	25.11.2024

PREPARED BY:	 Centre Manager	Date: 2/4/25
APPROVED BY:	 Board of Directors	Date: 15/5/25

Policy Statement

It is the priority of Scamps and Scholars to protect all children attending our service and all persons working in our service from the transmission of infections. The health and well-being of all children, staff and visitors to our service is paramount and our aim is to prevent and manage any infection which may be present in the service. This policy is communicated to all staff and a version of this policy is available to parents digitally via the website.

Principle

This policy is underwritten by the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Tusla (2018) Quality and Regulatory Framework.

Rationale

Infection can lead to serious ill-health for young children. Infection control procedures seek to reduce the risk of children and staff contracting an illness in Scamps and Scholars by ensuring good hygiene is followed at all times and the risk of infection is minimised. We aim to promote good hygiene practices that children and parents can implement at home.

Preventing the Spread of Infection

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are undertaken by staff to assess if activities, actions or environments pose risks from an infection control standpoint to the children and staff of Scamps and Scholars.

Actions are implemented to eliminate or reduce the risk identified through risk assessment. (risk assessment sample at the end of this policy)

Hand washing

- Scamps and Scholars has a hand washing policy in place which all staff promote and model for children. Staff wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating/preparing food, after wiping noses, after waste disposal and mopping up spills, after assisting children going to the toilet, after caring for sick children, after handling soiled clothing, after dealing with waste and after removing disposable gloves.
- A wash hand basin is provided in each room with a constant supply of hot (no greater than 43°C) and cold running water, liquid anti-bacterial soap and paper towels. A wash hand basin is available in all bathrooms and kitchens.

- In Scamps and Scholars, children are encouraged to wash their hands with warm water and liquid soap under supervision after visiting the toilet, before eating, after sneezing, coughing or blowing noses, after handling animals, after touching a cut or sore and after outside play and activities. Clear guidance on handwashing is outlined for children and staff in our service.
- Staff will supervise and assist children to encourage effective handwashing.
- Our staff always wear gloves when preparing and serving food and wash hands after removing gloves.
- Our Staff always wash their hands after removing waste food and materials.
- Appropriate food hygiene practices are followed at all times.
- Perishable food is kept in a refrigerator, between temperatures of 0 and 5 Celsius. Any perishable food left at room temperature for more than 2 hours will be discarded safely.
- Staff involved in helping children with toileting or nappy changing will not be involved in preparing food.



Nappy Changing and Toileting

- We have 3 nappy changing rooms in Scamps and Scholars with 4 nappy changing tables. Nappy changing rooms do not directly communicate with any occupied room or room where food is stored.
- The nappy changing room is adequately ventilated, by window/mechanical ventilation. Where possible, the door to the nappy changing room is kept closed at all times.
- A wash basin is included in the nappy changing room and has hot and cold running water and access to liquid soap and paper towel dispensers.
- Children's hands will be washed and dried after nappy changing, staff will also ensure that they have thoroughly washed their own hands before and after nappy changing.
- Staff who change nappies use powder free, synthetic vinyl or latex gloves.

- All nappy changing mats used in Scamps and Scholars are waterproof, in good condition i.e. no exposed stuffing or foam and have an easily cleanable cover. Nappy changing mats are wiped down by staff after each nappy change.
- All nappies are disposed of in a way which will not risk infection. Soiled nappies are stored in an airtight, sealed container that is removed from the premises at least once per day. Nappy disposal containers are enclosed and secure from children. Nappy changing units are cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis.
- All staff are fully trained and briefed in nappy changing and infection control.

Cleaning and the Premises

- All staff are aware of their role in maintaining high standards of hygiene.
- Scamps and Scholars encourages best practice regarding keeping the environment and premises clean and safe.
- Spillages of blood, faeces, urine, vomit or other bodily fluids or excretions are cleaned immediately and with priority. Mops are not used for these, and extreme caution is exercised at all times.
- Daily and/or weekly and/or monthly cleaning schedules are in place and records kept. Cleaning records are located in each room.
- Scamps and Scholars has a contract with a bin removal company for the removal and disposal of all waste at Scamps and Scholars.
- Our premises are free from pests and rodents, and we have a contract with an external agent who checks our premises on a regular basis.
- We maintain a good stock of cleaning products and tools to ensure that hygiene practices can be carried out at all times. Adequate supplies for cleaning are provided to be used, like clean cloths, gloves, aprons, mops, buckets and detergents. Cleaning products and supplies are stored in a secure press that is not accessible to children.
- Toys and play materials are cleaned daily, with attention placed on especially soiled items. Toys are not brought into toilet or changing areas.
- Toilets, floors, shelves storing bags, tables and chairs and other areas are cleaned daily to help decrease the spread of infection, cleaning agents used are detailed on our cleaning schedules.
- All linen is washed a minimum once per week and more frequently if necessary. Children do not share bed clothes, and all sheets and blankets are stored separately. These items are washed at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate.
- Any soiled clothes are placed in a plastic bag, sealed and sent home with parents/guardians, parents and guardians are informed at collection if clothes being sent home are soiled.
- At least once a day, even in winter, all rooms in the service are aired out.
- All staff receive regular support and supervision in relation to infection control and training is provided.
- Use a disinfectant fogging machine may be used regularly or intermittently to provide extensive disinfection in a short space of time. This is not a substitute to cleaning in the traditional sense.
- We engage the services of a professional contract cleaner to provide a cleaning service for the substantive cleaning that is required for our premises.

Immunisation

- Our immunisation policy is followed at all times with all children and staff.
- On enrolment, parents are asked for their child's immunisation record, this information is recorded on the child's record card.
- Parents/guardians of children who are not immunised are made aware of the dangers of infectious diseases. Parents are encouraged to keep up to date with current vaccination requirements and to ensure that the service is kept informed and the child's record updated when required.
- Parents/guardians are not required to have their children immunised to gain admission to the service but where a child's immunisation record is not up-to-date parents/guardians are encouraged to have their child vaccinated.
- If a child is not immunised, parents/guardians are advised that their children may be excluded from the service during outbreaks of some vaccine preventable diseases such as Measles, Whooping Cough etc., even if their child is well. This is to protect their non-immunised child.
- We provide information leaflets on immunisation schedules, oral hygiene and prevention of infection to parents on request.

Animals and pets

- Handwashing and drying procedures are followed before and after handling any animals and pets that are present in Named Service or that we meet on outings.
- All animals and pets are managed in accordance with required and appropriate instructions for their care.
- Children are supervised with animals at all times.
- All animals visiting Scamps and Scholars are only from reputable sources.

Illness

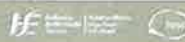
- If a child is unwell, Scamps and Scholars requests that the child is kept at home if they are unable to participate in normal activities and/or if they may be at risk of passing the infection to another child or adult in the service.
- If a child becomes ill while in Scamps and Scholars, we request that the child's parent/guardian or person authorised to collect will collect the child within 30 minutes. Sick children are separated from well children where possible in Scamps and Scholars.
- If Scamps and Scholars cannot contact the parents/guardians/emergency contact for a child, it may be necessary to transfer the child to hospital via ambulance depending on the severity of their symptoms.
- Unwell children, with a temperature and/or specific signs and symptoms, will be excluded from the service until a diagnosis can be made. Staff can and will use their discretion when admitting a child back into Scamps and Scholars, if they believe the child is still ill and cannot take part in their normal activities, they will request that the parent/guardian keeps the child at home.
- Children/Staff must remain at home for at least 48 hours following the last episode of infectious diarrhoea/vomiting.
- Unwell children and staff should only return to Scamps and Scholars when they have fully recovered. The exclusion notes in Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings are followed.
- Staff will report any illness to the manager/designated person in charge.
- A plan will be drawn up to help prevent the spread of the illness and the HSE guidelines: Managing an infectious disease in childcare setting will be followed in the case of a child in the service contracting an infectious illness.

Notifiable Diseases

Staff are aware of diseases classified as notifiable diseases by the Department of Public Health, see list attached.

Notifiable Diseases and their respective causative pathogens

specified in the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 23 of 2000) February 2020



Disease	Causative Pathogen	Disease	Causative Pathogen
Acute anterior poliomyelitis	Polio virus	Measles	Measles virus
Asp-gonorrhea	Human papilloma virus	Meningococcal disease	Neisseria meningitidis
Anthrax	Bacillus anthracis	Mumps	Mumps virus
Bacterial meningitis (not otherwise specified)	Bacillus cereus	Non-specific urethritis	Novel or Rare Antimicrobial-resistant
Botulism	Clostridium botulinum	Ornithosis (RURO)	Ornithosis (RURO)
Brucellosis	Brucella spp.	Novel viral infection	Novel viral infection
Campylobacter infection	Campylobacter spp.	Paratyphoid	Salmonella Paratyphi
Carapenemase producing Enterobacteriaceae, infection or colonisation	Carapenemase producing Enterobacteriaceae, infection or colonisation	Pertussis	Bordetella pertussis
Chancroid	Haemophilus ducreyi	Plague	Yersinia pestis
Chikungunya - hospitalised cases	Chikungunya virus	Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection (invasive)	Pseudomonas aeruginosa (blood or CSF)
Chikungunya disease	Chikungunya virus	Q Fever	Coxiella burnetii
Chlamydia trachomatis infection (genital)	Chlamydia trachomatis	Rabies	Rabies virus
Cholera	Vibrio cholerae	Respiratory syncytial virus infection	Respiratory syncytial virus
Clostridium difficile infection	Clostridium difficile	Rotavirus infection	Rotavirus
Clostridium perfringens (type A) food-borne disease	Clostridium perfringens	Rubella	Rubella virus
COVID-19	SARS-CoV-2	Salmonellosis	Salmonella spp. other than S. Typhi and S. Paratyphi
Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease	Prion	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	SARS-associated coronavirus
variant Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease	Prion	Shigellosis	Shigella spp.
Cryptosporidiosis	Cryptosporidium parvum, hominis	Smallpox	Varicella virus
Cytomegalovirus infection (congenital)	Cytomegalovirus	Staphylococcal food poisoning	Enterotoxigenic Staphylococcus aureus
Dengue fever	Dengue virus	Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia	Staphylococcus aureus (blood)
Diphtheria	Corynebacterium diphtheriae or ulcerans (toxin producing)	Streptococcus group A infection (invasive)	Streptococcus pyogenes (blood, CSF or other normally sterile site)
Echinococcosis	Echinococcus spp.	Streptococcus group B infection (invasive)	Streptococcus agalactiae (blood, CSF or other normally sterile site)
Enterococcal bacteraemia	Enterococcus spp. (blood)	Streptococcus pneumoniae infection (invasive)	Streptococcus pneumoniae (blood, CSF or other normally sterile site)
Escherichia coli infection (invasive)	Escherichia coli (blood, CSF)	Syphilis	Treponema pallidum
Giardiasis	Giardia lamblia	Tetanus	Clostridium tetani
Gonorrhoea	Neisseria gonorrhoeae	Trachoma	Chlamydia trachomatis
Granuloma inguinale	Klebsiella granulomatis	Trichinosis	Trichinella spp.
Haemophilus influenzae disease (invasive)	Haemophilus influenzae (blood, CSF or other normally sterile site)	Trichomoniasis	Trichomonas vaginalis
Hepatitis A (acute) infection	Hepatitis A virus	Tuberculosis	Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex
Hepatitis B (acute and chronic) infection	Hepatitis B virus	Tularemia	Francisella tularensis
Hepatitis C infection	Hepatitis C virus	Typhoid	Salmonella Typhi
Hepatitis E infection	Hepatitis E virus	Typhus	Rickettsia prowazekii
Herpes simplex (genital)	Herpes simplex virus	Verotoxinigenic Escherichia coli infection	Verotoxin producing Escherichia coli
Herpes simplex (non-genital)	Herpes simplex virus	Viral encephalitis	
Human immunodeficiency virus infection	Human immunodeficiency virus	Viral haemorrhagic fever	
Influenza	Influenza A and B virus	Viral meningitis	
Klebsiella pneumoniae infection (invasive)	Klebsiella pneumoniae (blood or CSF)	West Nile fever	West Nile virus
Legionellosis	Legionella spp.	Yellow fever	Yellow fever virus
Leprosy	Mycobacterium leprae	Yersiniosis	Yersinia enterocolitica, Yersinia pseudotuberculosis
Lepidoptera	Lepidoptera spp.	Zika virus infection	Zika virus
Listeriosis	Listeria monocytogenes		
Lyme disease (neuroborreliosis)	Borrelia burgdorferi		
Lymphogranuloma venereum	Chlamydia trachomatis		
Malaria	Plasmodium falciparum, vivax, knowlesi, ovale, malariae		
non-specific Enterobacteriaceae infection or colonisation	non-specific Enterobacteriaceae infection or colonisation		

Please refer to the case definitions for the above diseases. The up-to-date list of diseases and case definitions are available on the HPSC website at www.hpsc.ie/notifiablediseases

East

Courtesy Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow
Medical Officer of Health,
Department of Public Health,
Room C23,
Dr Steevens' Hospital,
Dublin 8
Phone: 01 6352145
Fax: 01 6352103

Midlands

Courtesy Laois, Offaly, Longford and Westmeath
Medical Officer of Health,
Department of Public Health,
Area Office,
Arden Road,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly.
Phone: 057 9359891
Fax: 057 9359907

Mid West

Courtesy Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary
Medical Officer of Health,
Department of Public Health,
Mount Kennet House,
Henry Street,
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Phone: 061 483397
Fax: 061 464205

North East

Courtesy Carlow, Louth, Meath and Monaghan
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North West

Courtesy Donegal
Medical Officer of Health,
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Iona House,
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Phone: 071 9852900
Fax: 071 9852901

South

Courtesy Sligo and Leitrim
Medical Officer of Health,
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Phone: 071 9174750
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County Kerry

Medical Officer of Health,
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Floor 2,
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Phone: 021 4922601
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County Kerry

Medical Officer of Health,
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Phone: 066 7184548
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South East

Courtesy Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford
Medical Officer of Health,
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Phone: 056 7784142
Fax: 056 7784599

West

Courtesy Galway, Mayo and Roscommon
Medical Officer of Health,
Department of Public Health,
Marlin Park Hospital,
Galway.
Phone: 091 775200
Fax: 091 758263

- When Scamps and Scholars is informed by the Department of Public Health of a diagnosis of a child attending the service or an employee, unpaid worker, contractor or other person working in the service, as suffering from an infectious disease, the service will notify the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate by filling out the Notification of Incidents Form.
- Scamps and Scholars will contact the Department of Public Health if there is a concern about a communicable disease or infection or if there is an outbreak of infectious disease in the service. The Department of Public Health will also be contacted before sending letters to parents/guardians about an infectious disease. The advice of the Department of Public Health will be followed at all times in regard to the management of infectious diseases.
- Parents will be informed verbally and in writing if an outbreak has occurred – all reasonable information on the outbreak will be provided to them.

This policy links with our –

- Medications Administration Policy (Early Years)
- Medications Administration Policy (School Age)
- Health and Safety – Responsibilities of Directors/Manager/Employees - Policy
- Staff Absences and Child Ratio Policy
- Sleeping/Sleep Room Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Staff Training Policy
- Staff Support and Supervision Policy

Area of concern :			Section for consideration:				
Problem	Is the hazard present?	What is the risk?	Controls (When all controls are in place what is the residual risk?)	Is the control in place?	Are there any outstanding issues?	Action response	Signature & date completed

INITIAL RISK RATING			RISK STATUS		
Probability	Impact	Initial risk rating	Open	Monitor	Closed