**Country Kidz Health Policy**

**Rationale**

To ensure all practical steps are taken by employees and whānau to ensure tamariki are kept safe and well in alignment with the Education (Early Childhood Centres) Regulations.

**Objective**

To provide for the health and safety of all tamariki by ensuring all reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of illness and the treatment of illness when this presents. To ensure Country Kidz works in collaboration with whānau to maintain the health and wellbeing of tamariki.

**Policy**

Our Centre endeavours to provide an environment in which children’s wellbeing is promoted and they are kept safe from illness. Tamariki can often become unwell suddenly or arrive unwell. Country Kidz must maintain the wellbeing of our tamariki by providing a safe and healthy environment and acting efficiently and effectively to ensure the ongoing health and wellbeing of tamariki. Tamariki who are unwell will be isolated and contact made with whānau to ensure they can be taken home without delay. Country Kidz is not able to care for unwell tamariki for significant periods of time and licensing criteria requires them to be taken as soon as possible to prevent any spread of infection.

Tamariki are not to attend Country Kidz when they are unwell. This is for the wellbeing of the child as well as to prevent the spread of infection conditions among other tamariki and kaiako. Tamariki should not attend if any of the following are applicable:

* The condition/illness is preventing the child from participating comfortably in activities.
* The condition/illness results in the child needing an appropriate level of care that then compromises other tamariki health, safety, and learning.
* The child presents any of these symptoms:
	+ Fever
	+ Persistent crying
	+ Little energy or want to be held and comforted constantly
	+ Difficulty breathing
	+ Infectious Diseases
	+ Mouth Sores
	+ Vomiting
	+ Impetigo
	+ Rash
	+ Diarrhea
* A child or kaiako presenting with any of the above symptoms must not return to Country Kidz for **48 hours** after the **last** episode, as Ministry of Health guidelines promote.
* The condition/illness requires medication and it has not been administered for at least **48 hours.**

Country Kidz operates a Medication Policy that aligns with Ministry of Education guidelines. The Ministry of Education classifies medications into three categories:

1. Non-prescription, topical medication, where written authority is required from whānau at the time of enrolment.
2. Prescription medication used for a finite period, where written authority is required from whānau at the beginning of each day.
3. Prescription medication for ongoing use, where written authority is required from whānau at the time of enrolment and that a Child Health Plan is provided from the child’s medical practitioner, which is updated annually.

**Implementation**

The following protocols are used at Country Kidz for tamariki with regards to wellness:

* Country Kidz provides an area in the office where sick tamariki can be isolated for their wellbeing and the health and safety of all the learning community. This is not an area designed as an infirmary and, as such, cannot be used in this manner for long periods of time.
* Any notifiable diseases will be notified to the Ministry of Health Public Health Unit.
* Country Kidz learning community are informed on Storypark of any health warnings and how to recognise signs of illness for which we receive notifications.
* Tamariki who are at heightened risk of illness due to immunisation status or are immunocompromised will be asked not to attend during an epidemic.
* Country Kidz fully supports the inclusion of tamariki with special health and learning needs and will do our best to ensure those individual needs are met whilst tamariki are in our care.
* Should a child become unwell or injured at Country Kidz, a record will be kept of the child’s name, date, time, description of the incident/illness, actions taken and by whom, along with evidence of parental knowledge of the incident/illness.
* Should a child become unwell, whānau will be contacted as soon as possible to collect their child without delay. Should whānau not be contactable, emergency contacts will then be contacted. In the event of a significant illness or injury to tamariki, kaiako will contact emergency services for urgent transportation to the nearest treatment facility.
* In the event of a significant illness or injury to tamariki that requires emergency services to be contacted or a child is admitted to hospital, Ministry of Education will be contacted and informed of the serious incident/illness.
* Country Kidz employ’s at least a 1-25 ratio for First Aiders onsite and during excursions. It is our preference that all Country Kidz staff have First Aid Certification that is renewed bi-annually.
* Country Kidz maintains first aid kits that are compliant with early childhood licensing criteria and are easily within reach of kaiako but appropriately inaccessible to tamariki.
* Country Kidz provides and maintains first aid kits that are carried on all excursions outside of our learning environment.
* An Administration of Medicine register records all medication administered whether that be external or internal for all Ministry of Education medication categories.

The following protocols are used at Country Kidz for kaiako with regards to wellness:

* Kaiako who are infectious or unwell will take sick leave and not return until they are healthy and asymptomatic and at least **48 hours** after the **last** episode as Ministry of Health guidelines promote.

*Aligns with:*

*Licensing criteria for centre-based ECE services as amended 1 January 2022*

*Education (early Childhood Centres) Regulations 2008*

*County Kidz Child Protection Policy*

*Country Kidz Medication Policy*

*Country Kidz Health and Safety System*

*Children’s Act 2014*

*Country Kidz Enrolment Form*

*Country Kidz Human Resource Policy*

*Country Kidz Illnesses, Injuries, and Incidents Policy*

*Country Kidz Strategic Plan 2022-25*

*Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities*

*Our code, our standards – Code of professional responsibility and standards for the Teaching Profession*

**Review**

Review when there is a significant change to legislature or as part of the annual management plan.

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| **Authorised:** |  |
| **Date:** | September 2023 |
| **Next Review:** | Add to Annual Management Plan for April, 2024 not withstanding a change in legislation or criteria |