**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**

Country Kidz aims to provide an environment where children’s wellbeing is prioritised, and they are safeguarded from ill health. This includes managing situations where tamariki become unwell suddenly or arrive at the center already unwell. We are committed to maintaining the health and wellbeing of all tamariki by ensuring a safe and healthy environment and responding promptly and effectively to health concerns. This requires honest and open communication between tamariki, kaiako, and whānau.

**Unwell Tamariki**

Tamariki who are unwell will be isolated immediately, and their whānau will be contacted to ensure they are taken home without delay. Country Kidz is not equipped to care for unwell tamariki for extended periods. Licensing criteria require unwell tamariki to be taken home as soon as possible to prevent the spread of infection.

**Attendance Guidelines**

Tamariki should not attend Country Kidz if they are unwell. This is to protect the health of the child and to prevent the spread of infectious conditions among other tamariki and staff. Tamariki should not attend if any of the following conditions apply:

* The illness prevents the child from comfortably participating in activities.
* The illness requires care that compromises the health, safety, and learning of other tamariki.
* The child exhibits any of the following symptoms:
	+ Fever
	+ Persistent crying
	+ Low energy or need for constant comfort
	+ Difficulty breathing
	+ Infectious diseases
	+ Mouth sores
	+ Vomiting
	+ Impetigo
	+ Rash
	+ Diarrhea
* Children or staff presenting these symptoms must not return to Country Kidz until 48 hours after the last episode, as recommended by Ministry of Health guidelines. If a child continues to still present with physical symptoms (such as sores or rash) but is otherwise well, a medical certificate may be requested to verify wellness to ensure the continuing health and safety of our learning community.
* If the illness requires medication, it must have been administered for at least 48 hours before the child or staff member can return to the center.
* Tamariki who have been immunised are asked not to attend for the 24 hours following inoculation.

**Medication Policy**

Country Kidz follows the Ministry of Education guidelines for medication administration, categorised as:

1. Non-prescription, topical medication: Requires written authority from whānau at enrolment.

 2. Prescription medication for a finite period: Requires written authority from whānau at the beginning of each day.

 3. Prescription medication for ongoing use: Requires written authority from whānau at enrolment and a Child Health Plan from the child’s medical practitioner, updated annually.

**Implementation**

**Wellness Protocols for Tamariki**

* An isolation area is available in the office for sick tamariki, ensuring their wellbeing and the safety of the learning community. This area is not intended for long-term care and does take kaiako out of contact to ensure the safety of the sick child.
* Notifiable diseases will be reported to the Ministry of Health’s Public Health Unit.
* Health warnings and illness signs will be communicated to the learning community via our Country Kidz Home App and Facebook.
* Children at heightened risk of illness due to immunisation status or immunocompromised conditions will be asked not to attend during epidemics.
* Country Kidz supports the inclusion of children with special health and learning needs and will strive to meet their individual needs.
* A record will be kept of any incidents or illnesses, including the child's name, date, time, description of the incident/illness, actions taken, and evidence of parental knowledge, as aligns with Country Kidz Illness, Injuries, and Incidents policy.
* Whānau will be contacted as soon as possible if a child becomes unwell to ensure prompt collection. If whānau are unreachable, emergency contacts will be called. In cases of significant illness or injury, emergency services will be contacted for urgent transportation.
* Serious incidents/illnesses requiring emergency services or hospital admission will be reported to the Ministry of Education.
* Country Kidz maintains a 1:25 ratio for First Aiders on-site and during excursions, with a preference for all staff to have bi-annual First Aid Certification renewal.
* First aid kits compliant with early childhood licensing criteria are accessible to staff but out of reach of children. First aid kits are also carried on all excursions.
* An Administration of Medicine register records all medication administered.

**Wellness Protocols for Staff**

* Staff who are infectious or unwell will take sick leave and are not able to return until they are healthy, asymptomatic, and 48 hours have passed since the last episode, in line with Ministry of Health guidelines.

Country Kidz is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of all tamariki and staff by adhering to these guidelines and maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment.

*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:** | May, 2024 |
| **Next Review:** | Add to Annual Management Plan for April, 2025 not withstanding a change in legislation or criteria |