

07 May 2020

9(2)(a)

Email: 9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a),

### **Official Information Act (1982) Request**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 28 April 2020. You requested the following information on:

**The centre-wide introduction of re-usable nappies and advice regarding cleaning of soiled underwear when children are toilet training, within Early Childhood Education services only.**

**Please supply a copy of all information held relating to the use of re-usable nappies in ECE centres, and any general guidelines for centre-wide use and supply of re-usable nappies.**

**Along with the above requested information, please supply the following:**

- 1. What chemical sanitizer(s) is required?**
- 2. Minimum contact time?**
- 3. Is there any information regarding the use of high-pressure water jets to clean faecal matter from nappies or soiled clothes?**
- 4. What temperature is the minimum temperature required, and over what minimum period is the temperature required for sanitization purposes?**
- 5. Is a record of the temperature required to be recorded?**
- 6. How is the temperature checked, making sure the required temperature has been reached for the minimum period?**
- 7. Can a centre use one washing machine for everything?**
- 8. Is there any requirement to conduct microbiological checks periodically on centre-owned re-usable nappies?**
- 9. What PPE is required?**

**Also, advice on cleaning soiled clothing during toilet training?**

We initially advised you on 29 April that the Ministry of Education were best placed to provide this information to you as to advice given to centres on these matters, and that we had therefore transferred the request to the Ministry of Education for response. On 01 May, you responded by email to say that the request was for information held by the DHB, and that you also have already submitted an OIA request to the Ministry of Education on this matter.

Under the Official Information Act - Section 14, an agency who receives a request must transfer a request if we believe the information sought is more closely connected with the functions of another agency (in this case the Ministry of Education), and our decision to transfer your request was appropriate on this basis. If you have concerns about the DHB decision to transfer this request to the Ministry of Education, you have the right to seek a review by the Ombudsman of the decision and our wider response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

As context to our decision, Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) provides health care and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 people). Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient/ ambulatory and community-based models of care.

As we noted in our transfer advice, the Ministry of Education in conjunction with NZ Public Health Units manage compliance with legislative requirements for Early Childhood Education (ECE) health and safety standards, including those related healthy environments. Assessing compliance with legislative standards, including those related healthy environments, and the health and safety assessments of ECE centres in the Auckland region is the responsibility of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS), via health protection officers.

We are not aware of/ are unable to identify any information held solely by the CM Health Services that relates to the use of re-usable nappies in ECE centres, or any general guidelines for centre-wide use and supply of re-usable nappies. In this context, we acknowledge that CMDHB clinical staff members do, as part of their usual health service roles, work directly with ECE providers and visit facilities, but this work is not directly related to how ECE centres are operated.

The Ministry of Education, in conjunction with ARPHS, are also best placed to provide any further more specific advice as to implementation of the requirements and standards. The most up-to-date information for Early Childhood Education providers, which is publicly available on the ARPHS website:

- <https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/early-childhood-education-centre-assessments/>

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Counties Manukau Health**