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Owner Sherie Goldbach:
Project
Coordinator

Policy Area Infection
Prevention

Applicability UNC Medical
Center

Pediatric Play Facilities and Child Life

I. Description

This policy addresses the infection prevention management of patients receiving services from Child Life, the pediatric play facilities, and Hospital School programs (e.g., Wonder Connection).

II. Policy

A. Staff

Staff should adhere to policies and guidelines established by the following:

1. Infection Prevention policy: [Diversional Supplies \(e.g., toys and books\)](#)
2. Infection Prevention policy: [Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens](#)
3. Infection Prevention policy: [Hand Hygiene and Use of Antiseptics for Skin Preparation](#)
4. Infection Prevention policy: [Infection Prevention Guidelines for Safe Patient Care](#)
5. Infection Prevention policy: [Isolation Precautions](#)
6. Infection Prevention policy: [Tuberculosis Control Plan](#)
7. Occupational Health Services policy: [Infection Prevention and Screening Program: Occupational Health Service](#)

B. Screening Visitors for Play Facilities

Visitors under the age of 18 should be screened for possible communicable diseases by nursing staff. Those deemed free of communicable diseases by screening (see Attachment 1: Pediatric

Play Facility Use Screening Policy for Pediatric Visitors) will receive a clearance sticker (see Attachment 2: Play Facility Use Stickers) filled out by nursing staff.

C. Patients

1. The play facilities are available for pediatric inpatient therapy use. Patients must be free of transmissible infection/colonization or, when applicable, managed according to the Infection Prevention policy: [Isolation Precautions](#) to prevent transmission to others.
2. Neutropenic patients may have therapy together and participate in therapeutic activities together with Child Life or play facility staff when a medical care provider writes an order, the patient is >4 years of age, will keep a mask on, and follow directions.
3. Patients whose body fluids can be contained (e.g., diaper, ostomy, dressing) and are not known to have an infectious process may visit the play area at the discretion of the medical and nursing staff. Contamination/spills should be cleaned up immediately utilizing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per the Infection Prevention policies: [Environmental Services](#) and [Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens](#).
 - a. Any patient who cannot control body secretions or has a behavioral problem that could lead to injury (e.g., biting) will be allowed to use the play facilities only when other patients are not present. Arrangements for these patients should be made with the Child Life or play facility staff.
 - b. Pediatric outpatients scheduled for appointments in participating specialty clinics (i.e., Hematology Oncology, Genetics, Sickle Cell) may visit play facilities. They should be screened for possible communicable diseases by nursing staff prior to admittance to the play areas by following the screening procedures for visitors to the play facilities. Those deemed free of communicable disease by screen will receive a clearance sticker filled out by nursing staff.
 - Outpatients visiting the play facilities on the 7th floor of NC Women's Hospital should be assessed for history of multidrug resistant organisms (MDRO) which is communicated in the electronic medical record (EMR). If the patient is flagged in the EMR for MDRO, the patient cannot visit the play facilities and must participate in therapies on Contact Precautions in one-on-one with a staff member or trained volunteer.
4. Patients with Cystic Fibrosis (CF)
 - a. Management of the Cystic Fibrosis patient requires special consideration.

Follow the Infection Prevention policy: [Patients with Cystic Fibrosis](#).

- b. CF patients should not be allowed in play facilities with other patients present.

D. Volunteers

1. Volunteers with cystic fibrosis (CF) should not work with CF patients.
2. Volunteers with communicable infection [respiratory infection with fever, conjunctivitis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, open draining lesions, active oral herpes (cold sore), chicken pox, herpes zoster/shingles] should not have direct patient contact until evaluated by OHS. (See Occupational Health Services policy: [Infection Prevention and Screening Program – Occupational Health Services](#))

E. Isolation Precautions

1. Personnel are responsible for following the Infection Prevention policy: [Isolation Precautions](#)
2. Patients who have been placed on Airborne, Airborne/Contact, Droplet/Contact, Droplet, or Enteric Precautions will not be allowed in the play facility areas.
3. Patients with suspected or known infectious gastroenteritis (i.e., Norovirus, Rotavirus, *C. difficile*, *Salmonella*, *Shigella*) will not be allowed to visit the play facility areas.
4. Patients on Contact Precautions should not be allowed in recreation areas with other patients present.
 - a. After the patient leaves the play facility area, surfaces and items touched by the patient should be cleaned using an EPA-registered disinfectant.
 - b. Patients on Contact Precautions are allowed to go outside of the hospital with healthcare personnel for therapeutic purposes ordered by a physician.
5. Patients on Protective Precautions may be together in the play facility areas at the discretion of the physician or nurse. The patient must be able to wear a mask, be free of symptoms of active infection or communicable diseases, be afebrile, and off antipyretics for the past 24-hours. Patients on Protective Precautions are not to go outside the hospital during therapies.

F. Preparation of Food

- The Department of Recreational Therapy and Child Life maintains kitchens where patients prepare food. Child Life will follow the Infection Prevention policy: [Guidelines for Infection Prevention in Nutrition and Food Services](#) in the purchasing, cooking, serving, and storing of foods. In addition, the following guidelines will be followed:

- a. Food cooked by patients as part of their therapy should be consumed immediately. The size of the portions should be kept small to minimize the generation of leftovers. All leftover food should be stored according to the food/refrigeration portion of the Infection Prevention policy: [Infection Prevention Guidelines for Safe Patient Care](#). Temperatures should be monitored on patient related refrigerators (e.g., patient nourishments), and recorded daily or be monitored via the RFID system.
- b. The refrigerator will be cleaned routinely (e.g., monthly) and when visibly soiled.
- c. Only dishwashing detergent with chlorine bleach should be used in the dishwasher. Ideally, all eating utensils, plates, cups, and kitchenware used by patients should be washed in the dishwasher or disposable. If kitchenware is not dishwasher safe or items are needed immediately, they may be hand washed in the sink. The kitchenware must be washed in a dishwashing detergent containing chlorine bleach and rinsed well. Dishes should be air dried in a dish drainer rather than being towel dried. After each use, dishcloths/sponges must be washed in the dishwasher or soaked for 5 minutes in a 1:10 bleach solution or discarded.
- d. A routine should be established for cleaning the drawers, oven cabinets, and microwave (e.g., the drawers should be cleaned bi-annually and when visibly soiled; the microwave should be cleaned weekly and when visibly soiled; the oven should be cleaned when visibly soiled).
- e. The countertops should be cleaned after each use and when visibly soiled using an EPA-registered disinfectant (e.g., Sanicloth or Metriguard).
- f. Staff should not use fresh eggs for cooking because of the risk of bacterial contamination from the eggs. In accordance with the Infection Prevention policy: [Guidelines for Infection Prevention in Nutrition and Food Services](#), only pasteurized eggs should be used in cooking. Please contact Nutrition and Food Services to determine where to purchase the pasteurized regular eggs. For patients whose diets allow, egg substitutes may be used.
- g. All staff and patients involved in food preparation must wash hands and wear plastic/vinyl gloves before handling food and throughout meal preparation. If someone gets a cut during preparation, the food that is exposed will be thrown out, and the person with the cut will receive medical attention immediately.
- h. Expirations dates will be checked routinely, and stock rotated to use goods in the order in which they are received. All food supplies should be from an approved source, either grocery store or dietary department. Cleaning products will be stored separately from food products. Food will be dated

when it is received.

- i. Staff food may not be stored in refrigerators which are dedicated for patients.

G. Pets and Animals

- Refer to Patient Care policy: [Animal Assisted Activities \(AAA\)](#).

H. Natural Products / Objects

1. Therapies that involve the use of organic items found in nature (e.g., feathers, pumpkins, seashells) may be approved for recreational activities on an as-needed basis by Infection Prevention.
2. Horticultural activities will be acceptable under the following conditions:
 - a. Patients must have intact skin.
 - b. Patients wear gloves when working with plants, soil, or sand.
 - c. No patients on Protective Precautions or those who have Pica are involved in the gardening activities.
 - d. There is no standing water (e.g., water in flowerpot holders).
 - e. Hands are washed with soap and water after activity.
3. For details on Wonder Connection's protocols, see Attachment 4: Wonder Connection's Hippoie Creek Cart and Attachment 5: Wonder Connection's WonderSphere Protocol.

I. Children's Lookout Terrace

- For protocols related to the Children's Lookout Terrace, see Attachment 3: Children's Lookout Terrace Infection Prevention Environmental Safety Recommendations.

J. Environmental Services

- The Infection Prevention policy: [Environmental Services](#) will be followed for appropriate cleaning procedures and schedules. The play facility floor cleaning will be done by Environmental Services. Allow for adequate drying time before use by patients.

K. Implementation

- The implementation and enforcement of this policy is the joint responsibility of the Departments of Rehabilitation Therapy, Nursing, Volunteer Services, and Pediatrics.

III. Related Policies

[Infection Prevention Policy: Diversional Supplies \(e.g., toys and books\)](#)

[Infection Prevention Policy: Environmental Services](#)

[Infection Prevention Policy: Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens](#)

[Infection Prevention Policy: Guidelines for Infection Prevention in Nutrition and Food Services](#)

[Infection Prevention Policy: Hand Hygiene and Use of Antiseptics for Skin Preparation](#)

[Infection Prevention Policy: Infection Prevention Guidelines for Safe Patient Care](#)

[Infection Prevention Policy: Isolation Precaution](#)

[Infection Prevention Policy: Patients with Cystic Fibrosis](#)

[Infection Prevention Policy: Tuberculosis Control Plan](#)

[Occupational Health Services Policy: Infection Prevention and Screening Program: Occupational Health Services](#)

[Patient Care Policy: Animal Assisted Activities \(AAA\)](#)

Attachments

[1: Pediatric Play Facility Use Screening Policy for Pediatric Visitors](#)

[2: Play Facility Use Stickers](#)

[3: Children’s Lookout Terrace Infection Prevention Environmental Safety Recommendations](#)

[4: Wonder Connection’s Hippoie Creek Cart](#)

[5: Wonder Connection WonderSphere Protocol](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Policy Stat Administrator	Kimberly Novak-Jones: Nurse Educator	10/2023
	Thomas Ivester: MD Obstetrics & Gynecology	10/2023
	Emily Vavalle: Dir Epidemiology	10/2023

Applicability

UNC Medical Center

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