

Red Shed Inc. Communicable Disease Policy

Effective Date: 01/06/2024

Review Date: 01/06/2025

Purpose:

Red Shed Inc. is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all employees, members, and visitors. This Communicable Disease Policy outlines the measures Red Shed will take to reduce the risk of transmission of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, influenza, and other infectious illnesses, within our facility. The policy follows the guidance provided by ACT Health, Safe Work Australia, and the Australian Government.

Scope:

This policy applies to all employees, members, visitors, contractors, and anyone present at Red Shed Inc. premises, including the gym, rowing areas, and wellness hub.

Policy Statement:

Red Shed Inc. is dedicated to minimizing the risk of communicable diseases through education, hygiene practices, and, where necessary, isolation procedures. The goal is to protect the health and safety of everyone while ensuring that the facility remains operational.

1. Definition of Communicable Diseases

Communicable diseases are illnesses caused by infectious agents that can be spread from person to person through direct or indirect contact. This includes, but is not limited to:

- COVID-19
- Influenza
- Gastroenteritis
- Measles, mumps, rubella
- Chickenpox
- Whooping cough (pertussis)

2. Responsibilities

2.1 Management Responsibilities:

- Ensure that appropriate hygiene and infection control measures are implemented and maintained in the facility.
- Monitor public health updates from ACT Health and implement any necessary protocols, such as isolation or exclusion of infected individuals.
- Provide adequate training and resources to staff on preventing the spread of communicable diseases.
- Ensure employees are informed about their rights and responsibilities related to leave, isolation, and workplace safety during communicable disease outbreaks.

2.2 Employee Responsibilities:

- Adhere to all hygiene protocols and report any symptoms of communicable diseases immediately to their supervisor or manager.
- Stay home if experiencing symptoms of a communicable disease and follow isolation guidelines if required.
- Cooperate with Red Shed's protocols for managing communicable diseases, including testing and providing medical clearance before returning to work, if necessary.

2.3 Member and Visitor Responsibilities:

- Avoid entering Red Shed facilities if experiencing symptoms of a communicable disease or if advised by ACT Health to isolate.
- Follow all hygiene and safety measures implemented by Red Shed, including the use of hand sanitizers, physical distancing, and wearing masks where required.
- Notify Red Shed management if they test positive for a communicable disease and have recently visited the facility.

3. Infection Control and Hygiene Measures

3.1 Hand Hygiene:

- Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the facility, particularly at entry points, workout areas, and wellness spaces.
- Employees, members, and visitors are encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands regularly, especially after coughing, sneezing, or touching shared surfaces.

3.2 Cleaning Protocols:

- High-touch areas such as gym equipment, rowing machines, doorknobs, and shared spaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently using hospital-grade disinfectants.
- The facility will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day, with additional cleaning procedures implemented during outbreaks.

3.3 Respiratory Hygiene:

- All individuals must cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing. Used tissues should be disposed of immediately.
- Masks will be provided and may be required during high-risk periods, following ACT Health recommendations.

3.4 Physical Distancing:

Red Shed will implement physical distancing measures where required by public health directives, including limiting the number of people in certain areas, maintaining distance during group activities, and adjusting room setups to ensure adequate space between individuals.

4. Communicable Disease Reporting and Isolation

4.1 Reporting Illness:

- Employees must report any symptoms or diagnosis of a communicable disease to their supervisor immediately.
- Members and visitors are requested to notify Red Shed management if they develop symptoms or are diagnosed with a communicable disease after visiting the facility.

4.2 Isolation Requirements:

- Employees, members, and visitors who are diagnosed with a communicable disease, such as COVID-19 or influenza, must follow ACT Health isolation guidelines.
- They must refrain from attending the facility until they have met the criteria to return, as outlined by ACT Health (e.g., clearance from a medical professional or a negative test result for certain diseases).

4.3 Close Contact Procedures:

- Employees identified as close contacts of someone with a communicable disease may be required to isolate or undergo testing, depending on ACT Health guidance.
- During periods of significant community transmission, individuals identified as close contacts should monitor symptoms closely and follow government guidelines on testing and self-isolation.

5. Vaccination

5.1 Encouragement of Vaccination:

- Red Shed Inc. encourages employees and members to stay up to date with vaccinations for communicable diseases, such as influenza and COVID-19, as recommended by ACT Health.
- Red Shed will provide information on the benefits of vaccination and how to access vaccines, especially during flu season or outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

5.2 Vaccination Leave:

Employees are entitled to paid time off to receive vaccinations for diseases such as influenza or COVID-19, in line with Red Shed's leave policies and Australian workplace laws.

6. Communication and Training

6.1 Employee Training:

All employees will receive training on how to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and how to clean and disinfect shared equipment.



6.2 Member and Visitor Communication:

Signage will be displayed throughout the facility to remind all individuals of hygiene protocols, physical distancing requirements, and any ACT Health mandates (e.g., wearing masks or isolating).

6.3 Policy Updates:

During an outbreak or pandemic, Red Shed will provide timely updates to employees and members regarding any changes to the policy or additional safety measures in place.

7. Policy Review and Compliance

This Communicable Disease Policy will be reviewed regularly, especially following an outbreak or changes in public health guidelines, to ensure compliance with ACT Health directives. Any non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action for employees or restricted access for members and visitors.

This policy has been approved by

Name: John Gasson

Position: President

Date: 01/06/2024

Contact Information:

For questions or concerns regarding first aid at Red Shed, please contact admin@redshed.org.au or 0447 137 111.