

Prevention and Control of Infection



All precautions are taken to ensure handling, distribution and hygienic storage of toothbrushes is maintained.

All toothbrushes are stored in an appropriate rack, with at least 2.5cm between each toothbrush.

All toothbrushes are individually named (or numbered) and placed in individually numbered slots.

Process:

Kaiako wash or sanitise hands thoroughly at the beginning and end of every toothbrushing session and as often as necessary during sessions.

- If kaiako have any cuts/abrasions on their hands these should be covered with a waterproof dressing or disposable gloves worn
- Kaiako remove toothbrushes from racks, one at a time, taking care that each toothbrush does not touch any other toothbrush
- Kaiako dispense a smear or a pea size amount of toothpaste onto a tray/plate, spacing out to ensure toothbrushes do not touch any other toothpastes when picking up the toothpaste
- Tamariki are actively supervised during toothbrushing sessions
- Tamariki carefully spit into the allocated sink or a paper towel when finished brushing
- Kaiako supervise tamariki to rinse toothpaste off their own toothbrush under the tap. Kaiako then places it back into its own numbered slot in the rack, taking care each toothbrush does not touch other toothbrushes.
- Tamariki place paper towels into a lined rubbish bin
- At the end of the session the lined rubbish bin containing used paper towels is secured and discarded
- The toothbrushes are left to air dry thoroughly before the racks are placed back into the storage container or in a clean, dry cupboard
- Toothbrush racks and trays are cleaned and dried as necessary and at least once a week. While racks are being cleaned, toothbrushes are placed on a large, clean tray or paper towels and spaced at least 2.5cm apart. Replace toothbrushes back into clean racks, and into their correct numbered slot. Wash or sanitise hands thoroughly at the beginning and end of cleaning racks.
- Clean sink/bench area after each toothbrushing session and after each time racks are cleaned. Plate/tray where toothpaste is placed is washed after each toothbrushing session.
- Replace toothbrushes every second term (6 months), or sooner as necessary; for example, if dropped on the floor and get contaminated with soil or toothbrush bristles are frayed.

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