

TO GPs

TB exposure at Little Feet Early Learning and Childcare, Waverley – health advice & screening information

Children and staff at Little Feet Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), Waverley may have been exposed to TB between February and August 2025. While the risk of transmission is low, as a precaution, we are offering TB screening to children and educators. This letter contains information on the screening and management plan should any parents approach you for advice.

TB is not as infectious as viruses like COVID-19 and usually requires significant time (hours to days) in shared spaces with the person to spread.

In most people who get TB infection the bacteria stay ‘latent’ and do not cause symptoms or spread to other people. In some people the bacteria become active which causes illness. Both forms of TB are curable and preventable with antibiotics. Screening can show if someone is infected with TB and whether they should have a course of preventive antibiotics.

What is the TB screening plan?

We are recommending TB screening for any children and educators who have been at the ELC from February to August 2025. All TB screening and treatment is provided free, even for those who do not have a Medicare card and will be offered on site at the ELC or at Prince of Wales Chest Clinic.

Most children will be suitable to screen with a two-stage tuberculin skin test (TST or Mantoux). We plan to apply and read the baseline TST in the week commencing 8 September 2025. Children who are negative at baseline will be offered a repeat TST in early-mid November to confirm if any TB spread has occurred. Prior BCG vaccination can affect TST interpretation. These children will be referred for further assessment, including an IGRA if over 2 years of age.

In children under 5 years of age TB infection can progress to active disease without a latent period. Due to this risk, children in this age group at the ELC are recommended to have “window prophylaxis”, which is daily rifampicin or isoniazid until repeat screening occurs in November. We have dispensed the selected antibiotic at the screening clinics.

Anyone with a positive TST or IGRA will be referred for a chest x-ray and reviewed by a specialist TB doctor for assessment and consideration of preventive antibiotic therapy. Anyone with immune problems or other significant medical comorbidities will also be offered a medical assessment.

Other routine medical care, including childhood vaccinations, may continue as usual. If you have any further questions, you can contact the Public Health Unit on 9382 8333.

Yours sincerely



Dr Vicky Sheppeard
11 September 2025