

Immunisation Policy

When groups of children are together, illness and disease can spread rapidly. Preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough can have serious health consequences for children, and especially young children. Staff members who work in an early childhood education and care service are also at increased risk of contracting certain infectious illnesses. Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases. Our Service implements the Australian Government Department of Health, 'No Jab No Play' policy.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

RELATED POLICIES

Enrolment Policy Family Communication Policy Incident, Illness, Accident and Trauma Policy Orientation of New Families Policy	Record Keeping and Retention Policy Infectious Disease Policy Work Health and Safety Policy
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to manage and prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and diseases. Our Service has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families, and educators are protected from infectious diseases whilst at the Service. Along with maintaining a clean and hygienic environment, this also includes notifying families and educators when an excludable illness or disease is present in the Service, maintaining a record of children’s and educators’ immunisation status, complying with relevant health department exclusion guidelines, and increasing educators’ awareness of cross-infection.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Immunisation is a reliable way to prevent many childhood diseases. Immunisation works by giving the person a vaccine (weakened or killed disease-causing bacteria or virus), against a particular disease. This makes the person’s immune system respond in a similar way to how it would respond if they actually had the disease, but with less severe, or possibly no symptoms. The vaccine therefore leads to the creation of antibodies that provide future protection if the person comes into contact with the disease.

Immunisation also protects other people who are not immunised, such as children who are too young to be immunised, or people whose immune systems did not respond to the vaccine. This is because the more people who are immunised against a disease, the lower the chance that a person will ever come into contact with someone who has the disease. The chance of an infection spreading in a community therefore decreases if a large proportion of people are immunised, because the immune people will not become infected and can protect the vulnerable people; this is known as ‘herd immunity’.

As of January 2018, unvaccinated children due to their parent’s conscientious objection are no longer able to be enrolled in childcare in VIC. Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition

or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule may still be enrolled upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.


Management / Nominated Supervisor will:

- Review children's immunisation regularly, updating the child's records kept at the service, and sending reminder letters and emails to families as required.
- Ensure that evidence is provided for each child prior to enrolment that confirms the child is fully immunised for their age or has a medical reason not be immunised. Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as evidence).
- Require all new and current staff to complete the staff immunisation record (including dates).
- Provide staff and families with information about vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff to be vaccinated.
- Document advice given to educators and other staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests.
- advise parents and families about the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#)
- notify the Public Health Unit of any outbreak of vaccine preventable diseases (1300 066 055)
- Notify families when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs.
- Exclude any child who is not immunised from the Service if and when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs to protect that child and to prevent further spread of infection.

Families Will:

- Provide the Service with a copy of one or more of the following documents:
 - An Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations; or
 - An AIR Immunisation History Form on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule; or
 - An AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP
- Provide the service with an updated copy of their child's current immunisation record every 6 months, or when the next scheduled immunisation has been completed.

- Ensure they provide the Service with the Medicare immunisation record which can be downloaded through the myGov website. Please note that the 'blue book' is no longer an acceptable form of evidence.
- Support their child's exclusion from the Service if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the Service or if they come into contact with a person with a vaccine preventable disease, even if there is no outbreak at the Service.

 The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) used to be the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register. It now records vaccines for people of all ages in Australia.

RESOURCES

AIR General Enquiries line 1800 653 809

Australian Government Department of Health *Get the facts on childhood immunisation-help protect your community* <https://campaigns.health.gov.au/immunisationfacts>

Australian Government Services Australia *Australia Immunisation Register* <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>

Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation. (2020). < <http://talkingaboutimmunisation.org.au/>

Victoria (VIC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE can be accessed and downloaded from: http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Home • Department of Health, Victoria Immunisation Program- children https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children Telephone - 1300 882 008 • Immunise Australia National Hotline: 1800 671 811 • Australian Government, Department of Human Services: https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/medicare/getting-your-immunisation-history-statement-using-your-medicare-online-account

Source

Australia Childhood Immunisation Register:

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government – Department of Human Services: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/medicare/getting-your-immunisation-history-statement-using-your-medicare-online-account>

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2017).

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register>

Immunise Australia Program: www.immunise.health.gov.au

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012). *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.*

NSW Public Health Act- NSW Government October 2020:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx#15

Privacy Act 1988.

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	April 2020	NEXT REVIEW DATE	April 2021
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additions to introduction statement • Additional information added to content • Resources section added • Jurisdiction specifications checked for currency 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
March 2018	Amendments made to comply with changes to Immunisation requirements	March 2019	
October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated to comply with new vaccination regulations in NSW. Effective January 1, 2018 	March 2018	
September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the references to comply with the revised National Quality Standards 	Match 2018	
March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy has been researched and reviewed, no changes made. 	Match 2018	