

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
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
172(2)(g)	a notice stating that there has been an occurrence of an infectious disease at the premises

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW	
174(2)(a)	Notification to the Regulatory Authority- (a) any serious incident at the approved education and care service

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, educators, staff, visitors, Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and management 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’.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/ NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- ensure information about immunisation, infectious diseases and exclusion periods is available to families at time of enrolment/orientation and is included in Family Handbook

- advise parents and families about the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#)
- 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).
- provide staff and families with information about vaccine-preventable diseases
- review children’s immunisation regularly, updating the child’s records kept at the service, and send reminder letters and emails to families as required
- notify the Public Health Unit (PHU) of any outbreak of vaccine preventable diseases (1300 066 055)
- notify families when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs through various channels of communication:
 - verbally
 - through a letter from the educator or Approved Provider
 - posting a note or sign at the entry of the residence
 - via electronic message- text message or email
- notify the Regulatory Authority of any incidence of a notifiable infectious illness or disease [ACECQA contact regulatory authority](#)
- 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. In the instance of the child being immunised but the immunisation record has not been sighted by the Service, the child is to be considered as not being immunised.
- advise any staff members who fall pregnant to visit their GP immediately and have a test for Cytomegalovirus (CMV) to check their immunity. Any pregnant staff member who is at a heightened risk will not change nappies and will double glove when coming into contact with any body fluids, including saliva

FAMILIES WILL:

- adhere to the Service’s policies regarding *Dealing with Infectious Diseases, Immunisation, INCIDENT, INJURY, TRAUMA & ILLNESS POLICY* and exclusion requirements
- 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. A current AIR Immunisation History Statement can be accessed at any time by the parent/guardian through logging in to their Medicare online account: [myGov website](#).
- 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.

INFORMATION TO BE DISPLAYED IN SERVICE

INFORMATION	WEBSITE/INFORMATION	PHONE NUMBER
The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Service	https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program	1800 020 103
Notification of an occurrence of an infectious disease/vaccine preventable disease	Notify local Public Health Unit Provide information to families about the infectious disease- Children unimmunised against vaccine preventable diseases must be excluded from care	1300 066 055
Australian Government Department of Health	In the event of a community spread virus- (COVID-19) publications from Government agencies will be displayed https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronaviruses-covid-19-campaign-resources	1800 020 080

Australian Government Department of Health- Immunisation saves lives

Currently there are different immunisation requirements for early childhood education and care services across states and territories. Information on immunisation requirements are listed below.

New South Wales (NSW)
Children must be fully immunised to attend early childhood education and care services. A current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) must be provided to services.

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule **TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE** can be accessed and downloaded from: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-schedule-portfolio>

- NSW Health Phone number: 02 9391 9000
- Local NSW Public Health Unit Contact Details:
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/default.aspx>
- NSW Health Immunisation Schedule
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/immunisation-providers.aspx>
- 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>

RESOURCES

AIR General Enquiries line 1800 653 809

Australian Government Services Australia *Australian Immunisation Register*

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>

[NSW Government Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit](#)

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

[Time Out Keeping your child and other kids healthy!](#) (Queensland Government)

Time Out Brochure [Why do I need to keep my child at home?](#)

[Victoria State Government Immunisation enrolment toolkit for early childhood services](#)

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

The *Immunisation Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with children, families, staff, educators and management.

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	EMMA COLLINS	DIRECTOR	15/5/23
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