

Immunisation Policy

When groups of children are together, illness and disease can spread rapidly. Immunisable diseases such as measles and whooping cough can have serious health consequences for children, especially young children. Staff members who work in a childcare setting are also at increased risk of certain infectious illnesses.

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

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is 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 provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the services operation. This includes notifying children, 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 to relevant health department exclusion guidelines; and Increasing Educators' awareness of cross infection through physical contact with others.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, Educators, staff, students, volunteers and visitors of the Service.

RELATED POLICIES

Control of Infectious Disease Policy
Pregnancy in Early Childhood Policy
Enrolment Policy

Health and Safety Policy
Staffing Policy
Record Keeping & Retention Policy

IMPLEMENTATION

Immunisation is a reliable way to prevent some infections. Immunisation works by giving a person a vaccine—often a dead or modified version of the germ—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 symptoms. If the person comes in contact with that germ in the future, their immune system can rapidly respond and prevent the person becoming ill.

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 2016, new immunisation requirements came into force affecting childcare benefits and family assistance payments (the Commonwealth) and the enrolment of children in child care. The Commonwealth has made changes under the ‘No Jab, No Pay’ measure to increase childhood vaccination rates causing families to no longer be eligible for child care benefits and family assistance payments with exceptions for children recorded with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases and those on a recognised catch-up schedule.

Management / Nominated Supervisor will:

- Display wall charts about immunisation in each room.
- Review children’s immunisation regularly, updating the child’s records kept at the Service, and sending reminder letter and emails to families.
- Not enrol a child into the Service unless approved documentation has been provided that confirms the child is fully immunised for their age or has a medical reason not be immunised.
- Develop a staff immunisation record that documents each staff member’s previous infection or immunisation.
- Require all new and current staff to complete the staff immunisation record.
- Regularly update staff immunisation records as staff become vaccinated.
- Provide staff with information about vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff to be vaccinated.
- Document advice given to Educators and staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests.
- Notify families when an outbreak of an immunisable disease occurs.
- Exclude any child who is not immunised from the Service if and when an outbreak of an immunisable infectious disease occurs to protect that child and to prevent further spread of infection. In the instance of a child being immunised but the updated Immunisation record not provided to the Service – the child would be viewed 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, especially saliva.

Families will:

- Provide the Service with a copy of one or more of the following documents:
 - An 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**.

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

Jurisdiction specifications for each state

New South Wales (NSW)
<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://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule • NSW Health Phone number 1800 671 811 • Local NSW Public Health Unit Contact Details - http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/default.aspx • Immunise Australia National Hotline 1800 671 811 <p style="text-align: center;">Note homeopathic immunisation is not recognised</p>

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 Capital Territory (ACT)

- The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule **TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE** can be accessed and downloaded from:
<http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule>
- Immunisation Program Australian Capital Territory Schedule can be accessed and downloaded from: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/our-services/immunisation/babies-and-children>
- Immunisation is available by appointments at Child Youth and Women's Health Program (CYWHP) Immunisation clinics across the ACT.
- A General Practitioner or the nurses in the CYWH Program can provide you and your family with all the information and support you require about the current immunisation schedule. Clients can access this service by phoning Community Health Intake on (02) 6207 9977 between 8am and 5pm weekdays.
- Immunise Australia National Hotline
1800 671 811

Queensland (QLD)

- 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>
- Local QLD Public Health information can be found at:
<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/>
- Immunise Australia National Hotline
1800 671 811
- The Queensland Health Immunisation Program provides information for service providers about ordering vaccine for the National Immunisation Program and other state vaccine programs.
Postal: PO Box 2368, Fortitude Valley BC, Queensland, 4006
Telephone: 07 3328 9888
Facsimile: 07 3328 9720

Northern Territory (NT)

- 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>
- The service will download and print the 'one page' immunisation schedule for the NT from the following website and attach it to this policy: <https://nt.gov.au/wellbeing/healthy-living/immunisation/child-vaccinations>
- Current Immunisation Recommendations for Adults in the Northern Territory
The service will refer to, and encourage educators to participate in, the recommended immunisation program for adults – <https://nt.gov.au/wellbeing/healthy-living/immunisation/adult-vaccinations>
- The Department's Community Care & Health Centres, Non-Government Health Centres and some General Practitioners provide the vaccines included on the National Immunisation Program free to children in the Northern Territory.
- **For immunisation information including vaccination histories.** Contact the NT Immunisation Register on 08 8922 8315 (Top End) or 08 8951 6928 (Central Australia) or by fax on 08 89228897. The Help Desk is open from Monday to Friday 8 am to 4.20pm
- Families are required to provide one of the following recognised immunisation records
 1. Australian Immunisation Childhood Register (AIR) History Statement
 2. Northern Territory (NT) Immunisation Record
- Immunise Australia National Hotline
1800 671 811

Tasmania (TAS)

- 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>
- National Immunisation program – Tasmania
http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/communicable_diseases_prevention_unit/immunisation
- Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services
Tasmanian immunisation hotline (1800 671 738)
- Immunise Australia National Hotline
1800 671 811

Western Australia (WA)

- 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>
- Western Australian Immunisation Schedule
<http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Healthy-living/Immunisation>
- **Department of Health, WA Central Immunisation Clinic**
http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/373/2/where_to_get_vaccinated.pm
Telephone - 08 9321 1312
- **For more information go to -**
http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Childhood-immunisation
- Immunise Australia National Hotline
1800 671 811

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (SA)

- 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>
- National Immunisation Program South Australia Schedule
<http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/health+topics/health+conditions+prevention+and+treatment/immunisation/immunisation+programs/childhood+immunisation+program/childhood+immunisation+program>
- For more information go to - <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-skills-and-learning/early-childhood-education-and-care/preschool-and-kindergarten>
- **Telephone** 1300 232 272 **Fax** 8226 7197
- Immunise Australia National Hotline
1800 671 811

Sources

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority (2014).
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015.
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- NSW Public Health Act- NSW Government October 2017.
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx#15
- Staying Healthy in Child Care. 5th Edition.
- Australia Childhood Immunisation Register.
<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register>
- Immunise Australia Program.
www.immunise.health.gov.au
- Revised National Quality Standard.

Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
March 2017	Policy has been researched and reviewed, no changes made.	March 2018
September 2017	Updated references to comply with the Revised National Quality Standard.	March 2018
October 2017	Updated to comply with new vaccination regulations in NSW. Effective January 1, 2018.	March 2018