

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 |

RELATED POLICIES

Control of Infectious Disease Policy
Pregnancy in Early Childhood Policy
Enrolment Policy
Family Communication Policy
Sick Children Policy

Health and Safety Policy
Staffing Policy
Record Keeping & Retention Policy
Orientation of New Families Policy
Work Health & Safety Policy

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 Service 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 with relevant health department exclusion guidelines and Increasing Educator 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.

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'

NO JAB NO PLAY LEGISLATION

'No Jab, No Play' is the name of legislation that requires all children to be fully vaccinated (unless they have a medical exemption) to be enrolled in childcare, kindergarten, preschool, family day care or occasional care.

To have an enrolment confirmed for a child, parents/carers have to provide the Service with:

- A current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR), and
- The statement must show that the child is up to date with all vaccinations that are due for their age, or that they are able to receive.

The Immunisation History Statement from the AIR lists the vaccines the child has received and, if applicable, which vaccines are due in the future and when. Medical exemption may also be listed, where applicable.

An Immunisation History Statement from the AIR is the only type of immunisation record accepted by early childhood and care services for the purposes of confirming enrolment and must be provided within the two months prior to the child starting at the Service.

The Medicare logo and Australian Government crest must be present and identifiable to be considered a valid Immunisation History Statement.

No other forms of documentation, for example a letter from a GP or local council, are acceptable.

You can print a copy of your child's Immunisation History Statement from your **myGov account**. If you have difficulty getting a copy via your myGov account you can:

- Call the AIR on phone 1800 653 809
- Visit a Medicare or Centrelink office.

Families who do not hold a Medicare card must call the AIR to request an Immunisation History Statement.

A Translating and Interpreting Service is available by calling 131 450, Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:45pm.

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,
 - An AIR Immunisation History Form on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule,
 - An AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP.
- Provide the Service with an updated copy of their child’s 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

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
- **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>

New South Wales (NSW)

- 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
- **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>

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
- **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>

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 services 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
- **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>

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
- **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>

Victoria (VIC)

- 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>

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
- **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>

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**
- **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>

Sources

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations
- 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>
Revised National Quality Standard 2018
- Immunise Australia Program
www.immunise.health.gov.au
- **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>

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 |
| March 2018 | Amendments made to comply with changes to Immunisation requirements. | March 2019 |