

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 a childcare setting are also at increased risk of contracting certain infectious illnesses.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

| QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY | | |
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| 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 | |
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| 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

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| Enrolment Policy Family Communication Policy Incident, Illness, Accident & Trauma Policy Orientation of Families Policy | Record Keeping & Retention Policy Infectious Disease Policy Sick Children Policy Work Health & 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'.

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 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.
- 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.
- 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 other staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests.
- 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. 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:

- 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' or 'yellow book' is no longer an acceptable form of evidence.



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) |
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| <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 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. Your 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) |
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| <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 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 <p style="text-align: center;">Note homeopathic immunisation is not recognised</p> |

| Northern Territory (NT) |
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| <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 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
- Australian Immunisation Childhood Register (AIR) History Statement
- Northern Territory (NT) Immunisation Record
- Immunise Australia National Hotline: 1800 671 811
- Australian Government, Department of Human Services:
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 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
- 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) |
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| <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 • 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) |
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| <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 • 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

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 *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* 2012

NSW Public Health Act- NSW Government October 2017:
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_ga.aspx#15

Privacy Act 1988

Revised National Quality Standard 2018

REVIEW

| POLICY REVIEWED | March 2019 | NEXT REVIEW DATE | March 2020 |
|-----------------|---|------------------|------------|
| MODIFICATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, purpose, & implementation revised • New immunisation requirements changed to past tense • Additional information added to points • Irrelevant information deleted • Sources checked for currency • Sources/references corrected and alphabetised | | |
| 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 | |