

# Immunisation Policy

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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 Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety	
2.1.1	Each child's health needs are supported.
2.1.4	Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.

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

## 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, staff, management 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'

As of January 2016, new immunisation requirements came into force affecting child care 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.

Under the '**No Jab, No Play**' legislation in Victoria, before enrolling a child, early childhood services must first obtain evidence that the child is:

- fully immunised for their age **OR**
- on a vaccination catch-up program **OR**
- unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons.

'Conscientious objection' is not an exemption under the 'No Jab No Play' legislation.

#### Management/Nominated Supervisor will

- Display wall charts about immunisation in each room
- Review children's immunisation regularly.
- Not enroll 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 during 2017-18 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 other staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests.
- Notify families when an outbreak of an immunise-able disease occurs
- Exclude any child who is not immunised from the Service if and when an outbreak of an immunise-able infectious disease occurs to protect that child and to prevent further spread of infection. In the instance of the child being immunised and the 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 Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) Medicare Immunisation Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations; or
  - An ACIR History Form on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule; or
  - An ACIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP, or;
- Provide the service with an updated copy of their child's current Medicare immunisation record every 6 months

Victoria (VIC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule (TO BE DISPLAYED) can be accessed and downloaded from</b> <a href="http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Home">http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Home</a></li><li>• <b>Department of Health, (Cwlth) Immunisation Program</b></li><li>• <b>Department of Health, Victoria - Immunisation Program</b> <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/">http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/</a> <b>Telephone - 1300 882 008</b></li></ul>

#### Source

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Australian Children’s Education &amp; Care Quality Authority. (2014).</li><li>• Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015,</li><li>• ECA Code of Ethics.</li><li>• Guide to the National Quality Standard.</li><li>• Staying Healthy in Child Care. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition</li><li>• Australia Childhood Immunisation Register <a href="https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register">https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register</a></li><li>• Immunise Australia Program <a href="http://www.immunise.health.gov.au">www.immunise.health.gov.au</a></li></ul>
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#### Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
March 2019	Policy has been researched and reviewed, no changes made.	March 2020