

Immunisation and Disease Prevention Policy

NQS

QA2	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.

National Regulations

REGS 85,86,87 Incident, injury trauma, & illness policy

Regs	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
	88	Infectious diseases
	90	Medical conditions policy
	162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

Aim

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

Implementation

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aging Immunise Australia Program –
1800 671 811 or www.immunise.health.gov.au/

South Australian Department of Health - Communicable Disease Control Branch - Immunisation Section

<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/immunisation-index.htm>

Telephone 1300 232 272 Fax 8226 7197

Immunisation Records

- Parents who wish to enrol their child are required to provide evidence of their child's immunisation record.
- Parents are required to present the child's immunisation record at the time of enrolment.
- This information allows children at risk of catching a vaccine preventable disease to be identified if there is a case of that disease at the service.
- An immunisation record is a written record of the immunisations that your child has received and the date that they received them.
 - An Immunisation History Statement provided by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR)

- The original immunisation record must be completed and signed by a medical practitioner, a registered nurse, a registered midwife, an enrolled nurse, or a person authorised by the state/territory Health department.
- The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) maintains immunisation records for children up until their seventh birthday. You can obtain an ACIR Immunisation History Statement for your child by calling 1800 653 809.
- The original immunisation record is usually kept in the personal health record book. These books are usually given to parents at the time of their child's birth.
- Each child's Immunisation Record should stay intact until your child reaches primary school. Do not remove any of the duplicate pages until this time.
- Parents need to provide the childcare centre or preschool with a photocopy of their child's original immunisation record.
 - one copy is kept by the childcare centre or preschool and;
 - Alternatively a copy of the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) Immunisation History Statement may be provided.
- The service must be able to quickly access immunisation records and determine who has not been immunised. If there is a case of a vaccine preventable disease, and your child has not been fully immunised for that disease, they may be excluded from school or childcare for a period of time.

Children with Overseas Immunisation Records

- Overseas immunisation schedules often differ from the schedule recommended in Australia and a child may require extra vaccinations to be up to date with the Australian schedule.
- Parents are responsible for having their child's overseas immunisation record transcribed onto the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR), if your child is less than seven years of age.
- A medical practitioner, registered nurse, registered midwife, enrolled nurse, or a person authorised by the state/territory Health Officer may transcribe overseas immunisation records.
- **Exclusion Periods may be implemented** if there is a case of a vaccine preventable disease at the service, your child may be excluded from school or childcare for a period of time or until the evidence of immunisation in an approved record is provided.
- Whilst the service actively encourages each child, educator and family member using the service to be immunised, we recognise that immunisation is not compulsory.
- If a child's immunisation record is not provided upon enrolment and if it is not updated by the parents, or if the child has not been immunised against certain diseases, then the child will be recorded as being not fully immunised by the service.
- If you cannot provide an immunisation record for your child you may provide a statutory declaration stating either that your child has been immunised or that you don't know if your child has been immunised for each disease on the schedule.
- To be fully immunised your child needs to have received all vaccines recommended for their age as part of the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

- Homeopathic immunisation is not recognised.
- If a child is not fully immunised and has been in contact with someone with a vaccine preventable disease outside of the service, they may need to be excluded from the service for a period of time.
- It is the responsibility of families to inform the service that their child has come into contact with someone with a vaccine preventable or infectious disease.

Immunisation for Educators

- It is important that educators remain up to date with their vaccinations in order to protect themselves as well as children in their care. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends that people who work with children, including child care and pre-school staff (including child care students) and outside school hours carers, should be vaccinated against pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis A, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), varicella (chickenpox), and influenza (required annually).
- The service will take all reasonable steps to strongly encourage non-immune workers to be vaccinated.
- **Occupational recommendations apply for the immunisation of educators at the service. As there are no mandatory requirements under the law for educators to be immunised, the service must follow the following requirements that our service has developed:**
 - **The Exclusion Periods requirements above apply to all educators.**
 - **Educators who are not immunised will be excluded from the service until the Nominated Supervisor or Owner provides instructions for the educator to return to education and care duties at the service**

Immunisation Related Payments for Parents - Child Care Benefit

The benefit applies to children who are fully immunised or have an approved exemption from immunisation. This initiative ensures parents are reminded of the importance of immunising their children at each of the milestones. For parents to receive benefits without their child being fully immunised your healthcare provider needs to certify that:

- your child has a medical reason not to have a particular vaccination; or
- your child has had a disease and has a natural immunity; or
- a particular vaccine is unavailable.
- Information on how a child's immunisation status affects payments made to a family, and more information on exemptions is available on the following website -

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/acir/family-assist.jsp#N10059>

- Parents are responsible for payment of fees while their child is excluded under all circumstances.

Current Immunisation Schedule is displayed in the foyer.