

# 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 who work in a child care 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

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW	
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 (in NSW). 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

- Children's enrolment form will include a copy of their immunisation record.
- Encourage parents to keep children's records up to date.
- Notify families when an outbreak of an immunise-able disease occurs
- Exclude any child that is not immunised from the Service 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.
- A child will be exempt from the above if the parents provide us with a Doctor's note explaining why the child cannot be immunised.

#### Families will

- Provide the service with a copy of one or more of the following documents
  - An ACIR Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations; or
  - An ACIR Immunisation 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;
  - An Interim Vaccination Objection Form for Enrolment in NSW Child Care Centres that has been co-signed by a medical practitioner or authorised nurse immuniser and a parent.
- Provide the service with an updated copy of their child's current immunisation record when enrolling a child.

## Jurisdiction specifications for each state

Western Australia (WA)
<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>• Phone 1800 671 811</li> <li>• <b>Western Australian Immunisation Schedule</b> <a href="http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Healthy-living/Immunisation">http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Healthy-living/Immunisation</a></li> <li>• <b>Department of Health, WA Central Immunisation Clinic</b> <a href="http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/373/2/where_to_get_vaccinated.pm">http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/373/2/where_to_get_vaccinated.pm</a> Telephone - 08 9321 1312</li> <li>• <b>For more information go to -</b> <a href="http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Childhood-immunisation">http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Childhood-immunisation</a></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 Review Date
August 2018