

# Infectious Disease Policy

*The spread of infections in the early childhood environment is facilitated by crowding and microbial contamination of the environment, as well as the unhygienic behaviours and greater exposure of young children.*

*Our service will minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases by adhering to all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases, promoting practices that reduce the transmission of infection, ensuring the exclusion of sick children and educators, supporting child immunisation and implement effective hygiene practices.*

## National Quality Standards (NQS)

### NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation
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

## Education and Care Services National Regulations

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

## PURPOSE

Children encounter many other children and adults within the Service environment, which can result in the contracting of infectious illnesses. Our service has a duty of care to ensure that children families, educators and visitors of the service are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the service's operation. We aim to manage illnesses and prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout the service. 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 within the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the service.

### IMPLEMENTATION

#### INFORMATION TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE SERVICE

Information	Website	Phone Number
<b>The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Service</b>	<a href="http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule">http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule</a>	<b>1800 671 811</b>
<b>The NSW Immunisation Schedule</b>	<a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/nsw-immunisation-schedule.aspx">http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/nsw-immunisation-schedule.aspx</a>	
<b>NSW Health Local NSW Public Health Unit Contact Details</b>	<a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/phus.asp">http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/phus.asp</a>	<b>1300 066 055</b>

**NOTE HOMEOPATHIC IMMUNISATION IS NOT RECOGNISED.**

#### New Immunisation Requirements from 1 January 2016

- Only parents of children (less than 20 years of age) who are fully immunised or are on a recognised catch-up schedule can receive the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement.
- The relevant vaccinations are those under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), which covers the vaccines usually administered before age five. These vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).
- Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases will continue to be exempt from the requirements.
- Conscientious objection and vaccination objection on non-medical grounds will no longer be a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.
- From 1 January 2018 [NSW] children who are unvaccinated due to their parent's conscientious objection will no longer be able to be enrolled in childcare in NSW. Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule will still be able to be enrolled upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.

- Families eligible to receive family assistance payments and have children less than 20 years of age, who may not meet the new immunisation requirements, will be notified by Centrelink.

#### Management will ensure:

- That all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority.
- To implement the recommendations from Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing the spread of Infectious Diseases.
- That children are protected from harm by ensuring relevant policies and procedures are followed regarding health and safety within the service
- To collect, maintain, and store appropriately the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children in the service.

#### A Nominated Supervisor/ Certified Supervisor will ensure:

- A hygienic environment is maintained
- Cleaning charts are completed each day and signed by the Educator
- Children are directed in their understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program and routine
- Educators and Staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves;
- Information is collected on enrolment and maintained regarding each child's immunisation status, and any medical conditions
- To provide families with relevant sourced materials and information on infectious diseases, health and hygiene including:
  - the current NSW Immunisation Schedule for children;
  - exclusion guidelines in the event of an infectious illness at the service for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all of their immunisations;
  - advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any specific infectious illnesses that are suspected/present in the service;
- To provide information to families about an infectious disease by displaying and emailing the Infectious Diseases Notification Form and details.
- That an Illness record form is completed no later than 24 hours of an illness occurring, remaining up to date and current
- All educators are mindful and preserve confidentiality of individual children's medical circumstances
- Children's enrolment records are updated with regards to immunisation as required, (i.e. as children reach age milestones for immunisation), or at least twice a year
- Advise staff of the recommended immunisations for people working with children
- To retain current records of staff immunisation status and ensure educators are familiar with procedures for exclusion of educators as well as children in the event of an infectious illness

- To provide opportunities for educators to source pertinent up to date information on the prevention of infectious diseases, and maintaining health and hygiene from trusted sources
- To notify and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required
- To provide opportunities for staff, children and families to have access to health professionals by organising visits/guest speakers to attend the service to confirm best practice.
- Children do not attend the Service if they are unwell. If a child has been sick they must be well for 24hrs before returning to the service. For example, if a child is absent due to illness or is sent home due to illness they will be unable to attend the next day as a minimum. A doctor's certificate may be requested by the Director if in doubt that the child has returned to full health
- To complete the register of illness a way to document incidents of infectious diseases. Some diseases require your state authority to be notified.
- Cloths are colour coded so that a separate cloth is used for floors, bathroom, art and craft and meal surfaces.
- Toys and equipment that are absorbent and hard to clean will be aired in sunlight
- Washable toys and equipment will be washed in detergent and hot water and aired to dry. All toys and equipment that have been cleaned will be recorded on the toy cleaning register.
- All cleaning procedures will be recorded on the Service's Cleaning Checklist.
- Toilets will be cleaned daily by school cleaners.
- Floor surfaces are to be cleaned on a daily basis end of each day.

#### Educators will ensure:

- That any child suspected of having an infectious illness are responded to and their health and emotional needs supported at all times
- To implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when treating ill children
- That families are aware of the need to gather their children as soon as practicable;
- Advise families that they will need to alert the service if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness;
- To maintain their own immunisation status, and advise the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor of any updates to their immunisation status
- To provide diverse opportunities for children to participate in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice
- To take into consideration the combination of children to decrease the risk of attaining an infectious illness when planning the routines/program of the day;
- To adhere to the services health and hygiene policy including:
  - hand washing
  - daily cleaning of the service;
  - wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids);
  - Appropriate handling and preparation of food.
- Maintain currency with respect to Health and Safety through on going professional development opportunities.
- Daily clean will be carried out on other surfaces that may transmit germs such as doorknobs, low shelving, etc. This will be increased if an outbreak has been recorded in the Service

- If a child has a toileting accident, the items will be placed in a plastic bag with the child's name on it. The plastic bag will be stored in a sealed container labelled soiled/wet clothing for parents to take home.

#### Families will:

- Advise the service of their child's immunisation status, by providing written documentation of for the service to copy and place in the child's file.

#### Source

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015,
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- [http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/\\$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf).
- Department of Human Resources: National Immunisation Program Schedule NHMRC.
- Staying Healthy Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition
- Medicare Australia
- Public Health Act 2010 (as amended by Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013)
- Public Health Regulation 2012

#### Review

Policy Review Date
February 2020

