



2.08 Immunisation Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

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.

AIM

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.

STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

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 disease. This makes the person's immune system respond in a similar way to how it would respond if they 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'

From **1 January 2018** children who are unvaccinated due to their parent's conscientious objection will no longer be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy. Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule will be required to provide the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.

Management/Nominated Supervisor will

- Review children's immunisation each month, updating the child's records kept at the service, and sending reminder letters and emails for families
- Not enrol 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 to be immunised.
- 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 immunisable disease occurs
- Exclude any child who is not immunised from the service if and when an outbreak of an immunisable 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 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
- Provide the service with an updated copy of their child's current immunisation record after each immunisation
- Ensure they provide the service with the Medicare immunisation record which can be downloaded through the myGov website. Please note that the 'blue book' is no longer an acceptable form of evidence.
- Ensure their child remains home for 48 hours after their immunisation.

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
- 97 - Emergency and evacuation procedures
- 162 - Health information to be kept in enrolment record

SOURCE LIST

This section contains websites, industry bodies, or Legislation that have been used to assist in sourcing the information for this policy. It also acts as a guide to sourcing further reading on each relevant policy.

- [Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority](#)
- [Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#)
- [Revised National Quality Standard](#)
- [ECA Code of Ethics](#)
- [Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition](#)
- [Public Health – ACT Immunisation Requirements](#)
- [Australia Childhood Immunisation Register](#)
- [Australian Government – Department of Human Services](#)

RELATED POLICIES

2.13 Incident, Illness, Accident and Trauma Policy
2.03 Administration of Medication Policy
6.01 Enrolment Policy
6.05 Orientation of Families Policy
2.08 Control of Infectious Disease Policy
6.02 Family Communication Policy
2.21 Sick Children Policy
7.07 Record Keeping and Retention of Records Policy

POLICY REVIEW

The review schedule has been developed using a risk assessment methodology with consideration given to sector, industry, and legislative changes.

Date reviewed	Policy changed		Modifications	Next Review Date
May 2018	Yes	No	Amendments made to comply with changes to Immunisation requirements	March 2019