

# Immunisation and Disease Prevention Policy

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety	
2.1	Each child's health is promoted
2.1.4	Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.
2.3.2	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazard likely to cause injury.

National Regulations	
77	Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Practices
88	Infectious Diseases
90	Medical Conditions Policy
91	Medical Conditions policy to be provided to parents
162	Health Information to be kept in enrolment form

## Aim

The aim of this policy is to protect individuals and the community by reducing the spread of immune preventable diseases. Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting individuals against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community.

## Implementation

In an effort to improve childhood immunisation rates, the Victorian Government has amended the Public Health and Well Being ACT 2008. The amendment is the 'No Jab, No Play' law. This means that an early childhood education and care service such as Little Scooters cannot confirm the enrolment of a child unless the parent/carer has provided documentation that shows that the child:

- Is fully vaccinated for their age, or;
- Is on a recognised catch up schedule if their child has fallen behind with their vaccinations; or
- Has a medical reason not to be vaccinated.

\*Conscientious objections to vaccination are not a valid reason for exemption

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule can be accessed and downloaded from <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/>

Department of Health, Victoria Immunisation Program  
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/>

Telephone - 1300 882 008

No Jab, No Play

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children-adolescents/no-jab-no-play>

## Immunisation

- Immunisation is compulsory for attendance at Little Scooters (unless an approved medical exemption has been granted by the ACIR).
- If a child's immunisation record is not provided upon enrolment that child will be unable to attend the centre.
- 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 Records

- Parents who wish to enrol their child are required to provide evidence of their 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.
- Acceptable immunisation records are –
  - An Immunisation History Statement provided by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR)
  - ACIR Medical Contraindication Form
  - Immunisation Status Certificate from an Immunisation Provider (must have due date of next immunisation)
- The 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 Nominated Supervisor will ensure records are kept of the immunisation status of each child.
- Parents/guardians must provide the Service with an updated copy of their child's immunisation record when the child receives a vaccine which is on the National or State immunisation schedule. We will regularly remind parents to do this via newsletters, emails or letters.
- 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 (with an approved exemption) for that disease, they may be excluded from childcare for a period of time.

## ACIR Immunisation History Statement

Parents must obtain a copy of their child's History statement issued by the ACIR which will show that the child is up to date with their immunisations. Parents can request a copy from the ACIR at any time through:

- Medicare Online accounts or the Express Plus Medicare Mobile App
- By requesting a statement be posted in the mail
- At a local Medicare Service Centre
- By calling the Immunisation register on 1800 653 809.

### Medical Contraindication to Vaccines

A medical doctor determines if a child has a medical reason (for example an anaphylactic reaction to a vaccine ingredient) for not receiving specific vaccine(s). This is known as a medical contraindication.

A doctor completes, signs and supplies an ACIR Medical Contraindication Form to the ACIR. The ACIR updates the child's records, and on request from the parent/carer, will issue an Immunisation History Statement that shows which vaccine(s) the child is unable to receive and indicates the due date for other vaccinations the child is able to receive. This statement can be provided to your service as proof of immunisation status for the purpose of enrolment.

### Other Acceptable Documentation

Whilst the ACIR Immunisation History Statement is the preferred documentation in the cases where time is an issue an approved Immunisation provider (a GP or immunisation nurse) can provide an immunisation certificate that can be used to prove a child's immunisation status. The issue is whether or not the child has had their immunisations all from one provider i.e. one doctor or several different places the parent would then need to get certificates from all places to cover all the required immunisation.

In order to be considered as acceptable as an Immunisation Status Certificate for the purpose of enrolment at Little Scooters the document(s) need to:

- Include the child's full name, date of birth and address
- List vaccines the child has received and when the vaccine was given (can be an attachment)
- Show the date of the child's next due vaccine OR include a statement saying the child has completed all their childhood vaccinations
- If relevant, list any vaccines the child cannot receive for medical reasons
- Include the immunisation provider's name, organisation name and Medicare provider number or Australian Childhood Immunisation Register number
- Be signed and dated by the immunisation provider.

### Catering for 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.

## Immunisations for Educators and Staff

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) recommend that educators should be immunised against -

- Hepatitis A
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)

Educators born during or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have antibodies for rubella, require vaccination

- Varicella if they have not previously been infected with chickenpox
- Pertussis (whooping cough). An adult booster dose is especially important for those educators caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated
- Influenza (annually)
- Hepatitis B if caring for unimmunised children with intellectual disabilities (although the risk is low).

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- regularly provide educators and staff with information about diseases that can be prevented by immunisation through in-service training sessions, fact sheets and the Staying Healthy in Childcare publication
- regularly advise educators and staff that some infectious diseases may injure an unborn child if the mother is infected while pregnant through in-service training sessions, fact sheets and the Staying Healthy in Childcare publication. These infections include chickenpox, cytomegalovirus and rubella (German measles)
- ask new employees to confirm in writing that we have provided this information during their induction.
- strongly encourage all non-immune staff to be vaccinated
- advise pregnant educators and staff to review the Staying Healthy in Childcare publication and consult their medical practitioner to consider the risks of continuing to work at the service
- ensure pregnant educators and staff follow good infection control and hygiene procedures
- exclude all non-immune (unvaccinated) educators and staff for the periods outlined under Exclusion Periods during an outbreak of an infectious disease or until they determine it is safe for the educator to return

## 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 CCB without their child being fully immunised their doctor or immunisation provider needs to certify that the child:

- is on a catch-up immunisation schedule or
- has an approved exemption from the immunisation requirements.

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.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/budget/1516/measures/families/002286>

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

### Source

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
National Quality Standard
Childcare Centre Desktop – <a href="http://www.childcarecentredesktop.com.au">www.childcarecentredesktop.com.au</a>
Early Years Learning Framework
Department of Health and Ageing, National Immunisation Program Schedule
Medicare Australia
Department of Human Services – No Jab No Pay
Health Victoria – No Jab No Play
Department of Human Services – Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
Staying Healthy in Childcare 5 <sup>th</sup> edition <a href="http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/ch43">http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/ch43</a>

### Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and will be conducted by Management, Employees, Families and Interested Parties.

Last Reviewed	Next Review Date
30.06.2016	30.06.2018