

QA2 – IMMUNISATION PROCEDURE

INFORMATION

Immunisations are widely considered to be effective and safe in helping to prevent the occurrence and spread of certain infections. Changes to national, and state/territory legislation have impacted the requirements around immunisation for children enrolled in, or wishing to enrol, in early childhood education and care services. The following procedure outlines the requirements that centres, and families must adhere to, in order to comply with the relevant national and state/territory legislation that governs immunisation, childcare fee assistance, and enrolment.

RESPONSIBILITIES

All team members, families, visitors, students and volunteers must comply with this procedure.

PROCEDURE

NO JAB, NO PAY

- National legislation only provides access to the Child Care Subsidy for children who are fully vaccinated, on a recognised vaccination catch-up schedule, or are unable to be immunised due to a medical issue.
- There is a short immunisation grace period, which provides some flexibility for families to meet the vaccination requirements where they may have missed or forgotten a scheduled vaccination.
- For further detailed information, including explanations in other languages, please access the [Department of Human Services website](#).

NON-IMMUNISED CHILDREN

- Our centre enrolls both immunised and non-immunised (conscientious objectors) children.
- If a child is not immunised and there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, the child will be excluded from the centre until the outbreak has passed, even if the child is well.
- Children who are on a recognised catch-up schedule, but who still do not have their immunisations updated, are considered to be non-immunised and may also be excluded (as above).
- Nominated Supervisors should contact the Public Health Unit when a vaccine-preventable disease occurs in the centre and follow any further direction and advice.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

- There are provisions in the “No jab, no pay” and “No jab, no play” legislation to ensure vulnerable children (eg: children in the Child Protection system) are able to attend early childhood education and care despite not having the required documentation to provide immunisation status.
- Please contact the Department of Human Services for advice and direction in this area.

STAFF

- All staff should be encouraged to be vaccinated.
- All advice and recommendations provided to staff about why vaccination is encouraged should be documented, along with the response of staff who choose not to vaccinate.
- Pregnant team members are encouraged to visit their GP / health professional for immunisation advice.

RECORDS

- Each state/territory has their own requirement for what constitutes approved documentation for proving a child's immunisation status. Please refer to the [NCIRS website](#) for the specific documentation required in your state/territory.
- Families are required to provide the approved documentation prior to enrolment, and to continue to provide updated documentation as the child passes the relevant vaccination milestones at 2, 4, 6, 12, and 18 months and 4 years.
- Legislation considers a vaccination to be overdue if 4 weeks have passed since it was due to be received – if the due date is missed this could affect a family's Child Care Subsidy payments, and depending on the state/territory, could impact on the ongoing attendance or enrolment of the child.
- The Nominated Supervisor will regularly review and seek updates from families to ensure current immunisation records are on file for all children. This will occur every 6 months in January and July each year.
- Staff records of immunisation status should be kept on their staff file.
- Records of occurrences of vaccine-preventable diseases will be maintained, along with actions taken.

COMMUNICATION

- Families will be advised when there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.
- Information will be available to families at the Centre about the importance of immunisations, the current recommended schedule, and where and how families can access immunisation and health care support.
- The Nominated Supervisor will connect with families to remind them about providing immunisation updated when required and every 6 months; specifically, every January and July.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Australia Childhood Immunisation Register

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register>

Department of Human Services. (2019). *What are immunisation requirements*. Retrieved May 8, 2019 from <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/enablers/what-are-immunisation-requirements/35396>

Immunise Australia Program www.immunise.health.gov.au

NCIRS (National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance) (2018). *National and state legislation in relation to immunisation requirements in child care*. Retrieved May 8, 2019 from <http://www.ncirs.org.au/public/no-jab-no-play-no-jab-no-pay>

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2013). *Preventing infectious disease in early childhood education and care services, 5th Edn*. Retrieved May 8, 2019 from <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>

NSW Health. (2019). *Questions and answers about vaccination requirements in child care*. Retrieved May 8, 2019 from https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx

Qld Health. (2019). *Vaccination legislation for ECEC services*. Retrieved May 8, 2019 from <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/immunisation/legislation>

Victorian Health. (2018). *Frequently asked questions: No Jab, no play*. Retrieved May 8, 2019 from <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children/no-jab-no-play/frequently-asked-questions>

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Reviewed	Modifications	Next Policy Document Review Date
June 2019	Created new policy document and format.	June 2021