



IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION POLICY

Introduction

Immunisation and Vaccination is the safest and most effective way of providing protection against diseases. Immunisation, defined exclusion periods and good hygiene practices reduces the potential risk of exposure within the early childhood environment. The NSW Government *Immunisation Toolkit* for early childhood education and care services guides our practice and provides resources and information to support families' access information regarding immunisation. NSW Health also provides guidance on recommended vaccinations to lower risks of diseases and viruses.

AIMS:

- To maintain a current record of vaccination status of all children.
- To provide current information to families and educators on vaccine preventable diseases and the preschools expectations.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

1. Immunisation Records

Under the *NSW Public Health Act 2010*, an approved immunisation from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) must be provided in order for you to enrol your child.

- I. An **Immunisation History Statement** showing your child's immunisations are up to date (including if your child has a medical contraindication or natural immunity to some or all vaccines) or;
- II. An **Immunisation History Form** – Catch-up Schedule used when an immunisation provider has certified vaccines given by another immunisation provider (i.e. vaccines given overseas) and/or organised to commence your child on a catch-up schedule for any overdue vaccines.

Other immunisation records, such as the Interim NSW Vaccination Objection Form, Blue Book, a GP letter or an overseas immunisation record are **NOT** acceptable.

2. Immunisation Register

Under the *NSW Public Health Act 1991* the Preschool must maintain a register of the vaccination status of all children. A register of each child's current immunisation status will be kept on the current enrolment list. Copies of immunisation records will be kept on file with each child's enrolment form in a secure location for 3 years.

3. Accessing AIR Records

AIR Immunisation History Statements are automatically sent to parents/guardians after their child has completed the 4year old immunisations, but parents can obtain updated statements at any time (up to the child being 14years of age by:

- Using their Medicare online account through myGov at: <https://my.gov.au/>

- Using the Medicare Express Plus App at:
www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/express-plus-mobile-apps
- Phoning the AIR General Enquires Line on: 1800 653 809

If you require more information about the current immunisation requirements go to the NSW Health website: www.health.nsw.gov.au

4. **Updating Records**

Families will be reminded to update immunisation records via newsletters, emails or letters. Children re-enrolling each year will be requested to update their immunisation status. Children turning 4 years during the Preschool year must provide updated immunisation records as soon as possible. Failure to provide up to date immunisation status could result in a forfeit of your child's re-enrolment at the preschool.

5. **Staff Vaccination**

It will be recommended to educators that they maintain their immunisation status by being protected against influenza, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, varicella and hepatitis A. Updates around vaccination are provided to educators as they become available.

6. **Covid – 19 Vaccination**

Based on the NSW Health guidance, **all staff** must be vaccinated with the minimum of 2 covid-19 vaccines, with boosters highly recommended and encouraged. A record of this will be requested.

Students must be vaccinated with the minimum of 2 covid-19 vaccines, with boosters highly recommended and encouraged. A record of this will be requested.

Visitors, Volunteers and External Contractors are encouraged to be vaccinated.

Children are encouraged to be vaccinated if available to them based on the NSW health guidance.

This will be reviewed when appropriate to meet current recommendations and guidelines

7. **Outbreak of Vaccine Preventable Diseases –**

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease -

- a) All parents will be notified of the outbreak.
- b) The Nominated Supervisor must notify the local **Public Health Unit (PHU)** on: **1300 066 055**, if any of the following diseases occur being Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough), Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Polio, Measles, Mumps, Polio, Rubella or Meningococcal C.

8. **Information for Families and Staff**

A copy of the current **NSW Immunisation Program Schedule** and the National Health and Medical Research Council's **recommended minimum exclusion periods** will be provided to all staff and families in the Parent Information Guide when they commence at the Preschool.

9. **Privacy of Records**

Privacy regarding the immunisation status of all enrolled children will be maintained at all times. The immunisation status of enrolled children will only be provided to Public Health Unit staff upon request, for example, during an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease. Officers of the Department of Education are authorised to inspect the *Immunisation Register*.

**NATIONAL IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS
(From 1st July 2020)**

Age	Disease	Vaccine brand
	Childhood vaccination (also see influenza vaccine)	
Birth	Hepatitis B (usually offered in hospital) ^a	H-B-Vax® II Paediatric or Engerix B® Paediatric
2 months (can be given from 6 weeks of age)	Diphtheria , tetanus , pertussis (whooping cough) , hepatitis B , polio , Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Infanrix® hexa
	Rotavirus ^b	Rotarix®
	Pneumococcal	Prevenar 13®
4 months	Diphtheria , tetanus , pertussis (whooping cough) , hepatitis B , polio , Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Infanrix® hexa
	Rotavirus ^b	Rotarix®
	Pneumococcal	Prevenar 13®
6 months	Diphtheria , tetanus , pertussis (whooping cough) , hepatitis B , polio , Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Infanrix® hexa
Additional dose for children with specified medical risk conditions ^c	Pneumococcal	Prevenar 13®
12 months	Meningococcal ACWY	Nimenrix®
	Measles , mumps , rubella	M-M-R® II or Priorix®
	Pneumococcal	Prevenar 13®
18 months	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	ActHIB®
	Measles , mumps , rubella , chickenpox (varicella)	Priorix-Tetra® or ProQuad®
	Diphtheria , tetanus , pertussis (whooping cough)	Infanrix® or Tripacel®
4 years	Diphtheria , tetanus , pertussis (whooping cough) , polio	Infanrix® IPV or Quadracel®
Additional dose for children with specified medical risk conditions ^c	Pneumococcal	Pneumovax 23®

EVALUATION

Providing information and keeping up to date records will ensure the Preschool is meeting the needs of the staff, children and families and allowing them to make informed decisions about immunisation.

Links to Other Policies:

Infectious Diseases Policy
Illness Policy

Resources:

Immunisation Toolkit: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/publications/immunisation-enrolment-toolkit.pdf>
www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/express-plus-mobile-apps
<https://my.gov.au/>

Staying Healthy in Childcare: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition July 2015

Statutory Legislation:

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 77,88,162
Links to National Quality Standards: 2.1, 2.1.2

Review History: V4

- January 2009 Policy Created
- January 2018 Policy Reviewed to reflect new immunization laws
- September 2018 Policy Review to reflect NQS
- October 2020 Policy Reviewed and Updated with current Schedule from July
- October 2022 Policy Reviewed and amended to reflect clear communication regarding immunisation updates and that failure to immunise could jeopardise preschool enrolment. Covid 19 vaccine requirements updated and continued.