

3.3 (j) Immunisation Policy

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| Policy number: 3.3 (j) |
| Date last reviewed: June 2023 |
| Reviewed by: Child Care Team |

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| This policy relates to | |
| National Quality Standards Early Childhood Education & Care | 2.1.2 |

Purpose

Educators’ conditions and responsibilities are clearly stated to ensure new and existing educators are fully aware of their responsibilities

Policy

Educators can be exposed to infectious diseases through contact with infected children and their blood and bodily substances. Educators are at risk of the following diseases that can be prevented by immunisation:

- Hepatitis A;
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) – educators born during or since 1966 who have only received one dose of the MMR vaccine should have a second dose;
- Chickenpox (if not previously infected);
- Pertussis (whooping cough) – an adult booster dose is recommended for those who work with young children.
- Covid19

All of these diseases can cause serious illness in adults. Rubella and chickenpox can occasionally cause serious damage to an unborn baby if a woman is infected during her pregnancy. Pertussis can cause serious illness in infants if the disease spreads from infected educators to infants in their care. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect educators and family members against these diseases. These diseases are generally very infectious and can spread before an infected person shows signs of illness. Further preventative measures are to implement good hygiene practices and ensure that personal protective measures are taken when in contact with bodily fluids (gloves) (refer to policies 7.8b, 7.8c, 7.8d).

As part of running a family day care service or working as an In Home Care educator, it is best practice for educators to maintain current immunisations to protect themselves, family members, children and families using their services.

Educators who are intending to provide care for infants are strongly advised to ensure their own immunisation (particularly Pertussis) is up to date. Educators who choose not to have their immunisations may not be able to care for infants due to the increased risks to the child.

Mandatory vaccination directives for immunisation/vaccination from government or the health Department

As the Approved provider Beaucare will follow and require educators to follow any mandatory directives from the government or Health Department – this may occur due to pandemic situations at any time and will be fully implemented for the protection of all involved.

Associated Beaucare Policies and Documents

Relevant Legislation

National Law

National Regulations

National Quality Standard

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

Queensland Health

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/childcare/index.html>

Department of Human Services

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/immunising-your-children>

Department of Social Services

<https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefitspayments/strengthening-immunisation-for-young-children>

<https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-provider-handbook-0>