



7.10 Immunisation Policy

Policy number: 7.10
Date last reviewed: February 2024
Reviewed by: Child Care Team

This policy relates to	
Staying Healthy in Child Care	
National Quality Standards Early Childhood Education & Care	2.1 Health, 2.1.1 Well being and comfort, 2.1.2 Health practices and procedures

Purpose

The service recommends that all children, educators and staff have up-to-date immunisation in accordance with the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule, but respects individual decisions and has procedures to cater for children who are not immunised.

Background

Immunisation of children and adults is reported to reduce the risks of vaccine preventable diseases.

Policy

Medical immunisation is recommended for all children and early childhood educators, but is not a compulsory requirement for participation in care. The service provides care to both immunised and non-immunised children. If a child is not up-to-date with their immunisation, the service can choose to refuse enrolment, cancel enrolment or refuse attendance, or impose a condition on the child's enrolment or attendance. Educators may choose to not accept enrolment of non-immunised children, however this must be a joint decision between the educator and service, and should be based on a medical reason (e.g. pregnant mothers, young babies).

Children who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons or who are on a recognised vaccination catch-up schedule are considered up-to-date, and this will be the status on their immunisation history statement.

It is acknowledged that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are at higher risk of many infectious diseases, especially respiratory and ear infections, and have a different immunisation schedule to non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Procedure

- Information is received from parents regarding medical immunisation on enrolment of their children. Parents are asked to update immunisation information during the year.

- If children are not immunised, this information will be requested to be shared with the educator.
- The service should be informed if an educator's own children are not medically immunised.
- If the child has not been medically immunised (not medically immunised includes children who may have been naturopathically or homeopathically immunised), tell the parents that their child will be excluded from care during outbreaks of some infectious diseases (such as measles and pertussis), even if their child is well. This is because the effectiveness of naturopathic or homeopathic immunisations has not been scientifically proven.
- If an educator or member of an educator's household or a child who attends care is diagnosed with an infectious disease, the service should be advised and the Public Health Unit contacted. Under the direction of the Public Health Unit, all parents with children with the educator and recent contacts may need to be contacted. Non-immunised children may need to be excluded from care as well as anyone at a higher risk of infection (e.g. pregnant mothers, young babies, children with compromised immunity).

<http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/pdfs/tip-sheets/tip-sheet-managing-the-risk.pdf>

Queensland Health: (07) 3328 9724
Communicable Diseases Branch: (07) 3328 9728
Gold Coast Public Health Unit: (07) 5668 3700

Department of Human Services Immunisation Rules

Immunisation requirements apply to all children and young individuals under 20 years of age.

If families claim or intend to claim Child Care Subsidies, the child needs to be up to date with their immunisations when the claim is made. The family will need to provide the child's Medicare number when they claim. The Medicare card number will be used to check if your child meets the immunisation requirements on the Immunisation Register.

If the child isn't up to date with their immunisations for Child Care Benefit, it will also affect their eligibility for Child Care Subsidies.

If there is a medical reason why the child can't be fully immunised, a general practitioner can provide the Immunisation Register with a completed ACIR Immunisation Medical Exemption form (IM011). The Immunisation Register can only accept this form from a general practitioner.

Parents are responsible for ensuring the service has up-to-date information regarding their child's immunisation status. This information is initially collected at enrolment, and parents can update this by logging into their enrolment form, or advising the coordination unit

Relevant Legislation

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 4,88
Public Health Act 2005 Section 15B

Key Resources

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing: *Understanding Childhood Immunisation*
www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook-home

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing: *National Immunisation Program Schedule Valid from 01 July 2007*
www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/nips2
www.immunise.health.gov.au/

Queensland Government Department of Health: *Childcare Immunisation Requirements 2016*
<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/childcare/index.html>

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th Edition*
www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/atsi2
www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/atsi-mob-report
<http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbookindigenous>

Queensland Health Community Child Health Service: *About Immunisation*
www.health.qld.gov.au/cchs
www.healthinsite.gov.au/content/internal/page.cfm?ObjID=0004D4C6-020B1D2D-81CF83032BFA006D&startpage=1

National Health and Medical Research Council: (2006) *Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care 5th Edition*
www.nhmrc.gov.au/ www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/ch43
www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/subject/General%20Health%20Information

Family Day Care Australia
www.fdca.com.au