

# IMMUNISATION POLICY

When groups of children are together, illness and disease can spread rapidly. Preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough can have serious health consequences for children, and especially young children. Staff members who work in school aged care services are also at increased risk of contracting certain infectious illnesses due to the close proximity of working with children. Immunisation is therefore an important health measure and an effective way of protecting children and adults from harmful diseases by reducing the spread of disease.

(Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, 2020)

## NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
S.174(2)(a)	Notification to the Regulatory Authority- (a) any serious incident at the approved education and care service
12	Meaning of serious incident
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
172(2)(g)	a notice stating that there has been an occurrence of an infectious disease at the premises

173	Prescribed information to be displayed
175(2)(c)	Prescribed information to be notified to the Regulatory Authority- (2) any circumstance arising at the service that poses a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of a child or children attending the service

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to manage and prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and diseases. Our OSHC Service has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families, and educators are protected from infectious diseases whilst at the Service. Along with maintaining a clean and hygienic environment, this also includes notifying families and educators when an excludable illness or disease is present in the OSHC Service, maintaining a record of children's and educators' immunisation status, complying with relevant health department exclusion guidelines, and increasing educators' awareness of cross-infection.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, approved provider, nominated supervisor, students, volunteers and visitors of the OSHC Service.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Immunisation is a reliable way to prevent many childhood diseases. Immunisation works by giving the person a vaccine (weakened or killed disease-causing bacteria or virus), against a particular disease. This makes the person's immune system respond in a similar way to how it would respond if they actually had the disease, but with less severe, or possibly no symptoms. The vaccine therefore leads to the creation of antibodies that provide future protection if the person comes into contact with the disease.

Immunisation also protects other people who are not immunised, such as children who are too young to be immunised, or people whose immune systems did not respond to the vaccine. This is because the more people who are immunised against a disease, the lower the chance that a person will ever come into contact with someone who has the disease. The chance of an infection spreading in a community therefore decreases if a large proportion of people are immunised, because the immune people will not become infected and can protect the vulnerable people; this is known as 'herd immunity'.

Children without proof of recommended immunisation for their age will be excluded from attending the service during an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease. For a child to be eligible for Child Care Subsidy

and other family payments, immunisation must be in accordance with the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule.

### THE APPROVED PROVIDER / NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- ensure that obligations under the *Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations* are met
- ensure educators, staff, students, visitors and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy and associated procedure
- ensure all new employees are provided with a copy of this policy as part of their induction process
- ensure information about immunisation, infectious diseases and exclusion periods is available to families at time of enrolment/orientation and is included in the Family Handbook
- advise parents and families about the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#)
- provide staff and families with information about vaccine-preventable diseases
- take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff to be vaccinated
- document advice given to educators and other staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests
- notify the Public Health Unit of any outbreak of vaccine preventable diseases (1300 066 055)
- notify families when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs through various channels of communication:
  - verbally
  - through a letter from the educator or approved provider
  - posting a note or sign at the entry of the residence
  - via electronic message- text message or email
- notify the regulatory authority of any incidence of a notifiable infectious illness or disease [through the NQA-ITS](#)
- exclude any child who is not immunised from the OSHC Service if and when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs to protect that child and to prevent further spread of infection. In the instance of the child being immunised but the immunisation record has not been sighted by the Service, the child is to be considered as not being immunised.
- advise [female employees of childbearing age](#) ~~staff members who fall pregnant~~ to discuss [Cytomegalovirus during pregnancy](#) (CMV) with their doctor [if they are planning a pregnancy](#) with their doctor and inform management so that an individual risk assessment can be assessed and managed. There is NO vaccination to prevent against infection with CMV. Occupational risks of CMV in childcare

should be managed and control measures implemented. CMV [see: *Pregnancy in Early Childhood Policy*].

#### FAMILIES WILL:

- adhere to the OSHC Service's policies regarding *Dealing with Infectious Diseases, Immunisation, Incident, Injury, Trauma and Sickness Policies* and exclusion requirements
- support their child's exclusion from the Service if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the OSHC Service or if they come into contact with a person with a vaccine preventable disease, even if there is no outbreak at the Service or Primary School.

#### INFORMATION TO BE DISPLAYED IN SERVICE

INFORMATION	WEBSITE/INFORMATION	PHONE NUMBER
The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Service	<a href="https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program">https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program</a>	1800 020 103
Notification of an occurrence of an infectious disease/vaccine preventable disease	Notify local Public Health Unit Provide information to families about the infectious disease- Children unimmunised against vaccine preventable diseases must be excluded from care	1300 066 055
Australian Government Department of Health	In the event of a community spread virus- (COVID-19) publications from Government agencies will be displayed <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-campaign-resources">https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-campaign-resources</a>	1800 020 080

#### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH- IMMUNISATION SAVES LIVES

Currently there are different immunisation requirements for early childhood education and care services across states and territories. OSHC Services who operate as part of an approved ECEC service may need to ensure information on immunisation requirements as available to all families and updated as required.

South Australia (SA)
<p>The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule <b>TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE</b> can be accessed and downloaded from: <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-schedule-portrait">https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-schedule-portrait</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Government <a href="#">Australian Immunisation Register</a></li> <li>• Australian Government <a href="#">Immunisation history statement</a></li> </ul>

## RESOURCES

AIR General Enquiries line 1800 653 809

Australian Government Services Australia Australian Immunisation Register

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>

[NSW Government Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit](#)

[Time Out Keeping your child and other kids healthy!](#) (Queensland Government)

Time Out Brochure [Why do I need to keep my child at home?](#)

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

The *Immunisation Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with children, families, staff, educators and management.

## SOURCES

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2025). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)

Australian Government. Department of Health (2019). *National Immunisation Strategy for Australia 2019-2024*

[https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-immunisation-strategy-for-australia-2019-2024\\_0.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-immunisation-strategy-for-australia-2019-2024_0.pdf)

Australian Government Department Of Health National Immunise Program: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program>

Australian Government. Services Australia. [Australian Immunisation Register](#)

Australian Government. Services Australia. (2023). [Immunisation requirements](#)

Australian Government. Services Australia: [How to get immunisation statements](#)

Australian Government Department Of Health National Immunise Program: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program>

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023).

Federal Register of Legislation *Privacy Act 1988*.

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS). (2024) . [No Jab No Play, No Jab No Pay:](#)

[National Health and Medical Research Council. \(2024\). \*Staying Healthy: preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services\* \(6th Ed.\). NHMRC. Canberra.](#)

Pregnancy Birth and Baby. [Cytomegalovirus \(CMV\) during pregnancy.](#)

## REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Cathy Morallee		Nominated Supervisor and OSHC Director	May 2025
POLICY REVIEWED	MARCH 2025	NEXT REVIEW DATE		MARCH 2026
VERSION NUMBER	V11.03.25			
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• annual policy maintenance</li><li>• minor edits</li><li>• updated state and territory immunisation requirements and links</li></ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sources checked for currency and updated as required</li> </ul>	
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE
MARCH 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• annual policy maintenance</li> <li>• minor edits within policy</li> <li>• updated information re: CMV for staff/educators who are pregnant</li> </ul>	MARCH 2025