

Immunisation Policy

Published	November 2020
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Sources	<p>Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2020</p> <p>Education and Care Services National Law, February 2018</p> <p>Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017</p> <p>Guide to the National Quality Framework, September 2020</p> <p>NSW Department of Health Communicable Diseases</p> <p>NSW Public Health Act 2010</p> <p>NSW Health, Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit for Early Childhood Education and Care Services, November 2018</p> <p>NSW Health - www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx</p>

Aim:

To protect the people using the Family Day Care and In Home Care Service from contracting vaccine preventable diseases, and to support the Department of Health's objectives for full immunisation of all children.

Responsibilities:

In relation to Co-ordination Unit Staff:

- Abide by their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Law, Education and Care Services National Regulations and the National Quality Standard in relation to immunisation
- Abide by their obligations under the Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2010, which states that Early Childhood Education and Care Services **cannot** enrol a child unless approved documentation is provided that indicates that the child:
 - Is fully immunised for their age ([AIR Immunisation History Statement](#))
 - Has a medical reason not to be vaccinated ([AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form](#))
 - Is on a recognised catch-up schedule (AIR Immunisation History Form)
- Disperse up to date information received in regards to immunisation to all Educators and families, including information regarding no conscientious objectors can be enrolled as per the NSW Public Health Act 2010 No.127 – June 1, 2018
- Immunisation noted on receipt via an acknowledgement email to the Guardian and entry onto the Immunisation Register
- Abide by the exclusion policy; where if a vaccine preventable disease is present, or if a suspected child/ren who are not immunised, or a child/ren have incomplete immunisation records, they will be excluded
- Advise all families upon enrolment of the exclusion policy relating to immunisation, and throughout the year, in newsletters, emails, letters or on notice boards
- Ensure that Educators provide Immunisation History Record Statements for their own children upon registration, and as their child's immunisation is updated
- Ensure that **prior** to enrolment parents provide the service with one or more of the following documents:

- A **current AIR Immunisation History Statement** which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled immunisations
- A **current AIR Immunisation History Form** on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule
- An **AIR Immunisation Exemption – Medical Contraindication Form** which has been certified by an immunisation provider for a child who cannot receive one or more vaccines
- Under the NSW Government Legislation introduced in January 2018
 - A child must be fully immunised are permitted to be enrolled in an Approved Child Care Service
 - Only children with medical contraindications or natural immunity will be exempt from the immunisation requirements and still be eligible CCS payments
- The following records will **not** be accepted as proof of immunisation:
 - NSW Personal Health Record (blue Book)
 - A GP Letter
 - An Overseas Immunisation Record
- Remind parents to provide updated immunisation status for their children throughout the year, in newsletters and emails
- Advise all Educators upon registration of the exclusion policy relating to immunisation
- Maintain current Immunisation records of Educators and their families where available, and encourage Educators to maintain their immunity through Immunisation, please see attached Recommended Immunisation Table for Early Childhood Workers.
- Advise all persons entering the Educators Home or Play Sessions of an outbreak, or suspected case of a vaccine preventable disease by posting an information sheet from “Staying Healthy in Child Care”, produced by the Department of Health and Medical Research Council, at the entrance of the home or service. Persons at risk will be informed by Co-ordination Unit Staff immediately by phone where necessary
- Facilitate compliance to the service policy through the systematic maintenance of immunisation records for staff and children
- Maintain children’s immunisation profiles in individual files and in Harmony
- Store Immunisation Records for a period of 3 years after the child has ceased care with the service
- Report an outbreak or suspected case of a vaccine preventable disease to the NSW Department of Health, Notifiable Diseases section
- Under the [NSW Public Health Act 2010](#) Early Education and Care Centres must notify of an outbreak of any of the following 9 vaccine preventable diseases to the local Public Health Unit on **1300 066 055**:
 - Diphtheria
 - Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
 - Measles
 - Meningococcal C
 - Mumps
 - Pertussis (whooping cough)
 - Poliomyelitis
 - Rubella
 - Tetanus

In relation to Educators:

- Abide by their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Regulations and the relevant National Quality Standard in relation to immunisation
- Abide by their obligations under the Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013, which states that Early Childhood Education and Care Services **cannot** enrol a child unless the parent/guardian has provided documentation that shows the child:
 - Is fully vaccinated for their age
 - Has a medical reason for not being vaccinated
 - Is on a recognised catch-up schedule if their child has fallen behind in their vaccinations
- Consider maintaining, through immunisation, their immunity to common childhood diseases please see attached Recommended Immunisation Table for Early Childhood Workers.
- Provide CCEL with Immunisation History Record Statements for their own children upon registration and as their child's immunisation is updated

In relation to Families:

Parents must provide a copy of one or more of the following documents to enrol in an Early Education and Care service:

- An AIR Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations or
- An AIR Immunisation History Form on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule (temporary for 6 months only) or
- An AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP.
- The following records **will not** be accepted as proof of your child's immunisation:
 - NSW Personal Health Record (blue Book)
 - A GP Letter
 - An Overseas Immunisation Record
- Continue to update their child's immunisation status each time they are vaccinated, and provide the service with an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement
- When notified by the service or Educator parents will collect their child/ren (if the child/ren is/are not immunised) from the service if there is an outbreak or suspected case of a vaccine preventable disease present

In Cases of Non- Immunisation:

The following classes of children are **temporarily exempt** from the new requirements and the documentation must be provided **within 12 weeks** from the date of enrolment in the Early Education and Care facility:

- Those who are subject to a guardianship order under section 79A of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- Those who have been placed in out-of-home care
- Those who are being cared for by an adult who is not the child's parent due to exceptional circumstances such as illness or incapacity
- Those who have been evacuated following a state of emergency (for example, a declared natural disaster)
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children

Continual Monitoring and Improvement:

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

- Incidental and planned consultation with families
- Co-ordination Unit Staff accessing current relevant information
- Co-ordination Unit Staff and Educators accessing current and relevant training
- Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

Policy Review

Date Revised	Comments
15/6/2011	Added clause on Non – Immunisation and Educator Immunisation
November 2011	Responsibilities for Educators: added relevant regulations and quality standards in relation to new Education and Care Services National Regulations and National Quality Standard
November 2012	Added changes as per the Public Health Act 2010 and Public Health Regulation 2012 in regards to the provision of Immunisation Status to the service
January 2013	Added information for In Home Care
January 2013	Scheduled Policy Review, no changes
January 2014	Updated Policy in line with new Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013
July 2014	Scheduled Policy Review – Added Educators providing Immunisation History Record Statements for their own children
January 2016	Scheduled Policy Review – added information regarding the No Jab No Pay Scheme (removed 2018)
January 2018	Rescinded 2016 changes and replaced with 2018 Legislation
June 2018	Updated Sources and in accordance with amendments to the NSW Public Health Act 2010 No.127 – June 1, 2018 Added NSW Government Health interim NSW immunisation Schedule (1 April 2018) Added NSW Government Health Vaccination of staff working in Early Childhood Services Information Sheet
November 2020	Scheduled Policy Review – Updated information and Immunisation Schedule

NSW Immunisation Schedule

Funded July 2020



CHILDHOOD VACCINES			
AGE	DISEASE	VACCINE	INFORMATION
Birth	Hepatitis B	H-B-VAX II OR ENGERIX B (IM)	Within 7 days of birth (ideally within 24 hours)
6 weeks	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b, hepatitis B, polio	INFANRIX HEXA (IM)	ROTARIX: Dose 1 limited to 6-14 weeks of age BEXSERO: Prophylactic paracetamol recommended. Catch up available for Aboriginal children <2 until 30/06/2023
	Pneumococcal	PREVENAR 13 (IM)	
	Rotavirus	ROTARIX (Oral)	
	Meningococcal B (Aboriginal† children only)	BEXSERO (IM)	
4 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b, hepatitis B, polio	INFANRIX HEXA (IM)	ROTARIX: Dose 2 limited to 10-24 weeks BEXSERO: Prophylactic paracetamol recommended. Catch up available for Aboriginal children <2 until 30/06/2023
	Pneumococcal	PREVENAR 13 (IM)	
	Rotavirus	ROTARIX (Oral)	
	Meningococcal B (Aboriginal children only)	BEXSERO (IM)	
6 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b, hepatitis B, polio	INFANRIX HEXA (IM)	Children ≥6 months with at risk conditions for IPD† are recommended to receive an additional dose of PREVENAR 13 – see AIH* Aboriginal children ≥6 months with certain at risk conditions may require an additional dose of Bexsero – see AIH*
12 months	Meningococcal ACWY	NIMENRIX (IM)	Bexsero: Prophylactic paracetamol recommended. Catch up available for Aboriginal children <2 until 30/06/2023
	Pneumococcal	PREVENAR 13 (IM)	
	Measles, mumps, rubella	MMR II OR PRIORIX (IM or SC)	
	Meningococcal B (Aboriginal children only)	BEXSERO (IM)	
18 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis	INFANRIX OR TRIPACEL (IM)	
	Measles, mumps, rubella, varicella	PRIORIX TETRA OR PROQUAD (IM or SC)	
	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	ACT-HIB (IM OR SC)	
4 years	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio	INFANRIX-IPV OR QUADRACEL (IM)	Children with at risk conditions for IPD† are recommended to receive an additional dose of PNEUMOVAX 23 – see AIH*

AT RISK GROUPS, ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS			
AGE/GROUP	DISEASE	VACCINE	INFORMATION
All people with asplenia, hyposplenia, complement deficiency and treatment with eculizumab	Meningococcal ACWY	NIMENRIX (IM)	See AIH* for required doses and timing Additional groups are recommended to receive these vaccines but these are not funded
	Meningococcal B	BEXSERO (IM)	
>5 years with asplenia or hyposplenia	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	ACT-HIB (IM or SC)	If incompletely vaccinated or not vaccinated in childhood
Year 7	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis	BOOSTRIX (IM)	
	Human papillomavirus	GARDASIL 9 (IM)	
Year 10	Meningococcal ACWY	NIMENRIX (IM)	
Pregnant	Influenza	INFLUENZA	Influenza: Any trimester
	Pertussis	BOOSTRIX OR ADACEL (IM)	Pertussis: each pregnancy between 20-32 weeks
Aboriginal people ≥50 years	Pneumococcal	PREVENAR 13 (IM) then PNEUMOVAX 23 (IM)	Prevenar 13: ≥50 years Pneumovax 23: 2-12 months later Pneumovax 23: at least 5 years later
70 years	Pneumococcal	PREVENAR 13 (IM)	Pneumococcal funded for people ≥70 Zoster: Catch up available for 71-79 year olds until 31/10/2021
	Zoster	ZOSTAVAX (SC)	
People with at risk conditions for IPD†	See the online AIH* for conditions recommended to receive PREVENAR 13 and PNEUMOVAX 23		

INFLUENZA		
AGE/AT RISK CONDITION	RECOMMENDATION	INFORMATION
All children 6 months <5 years		
Aboriginal people ≥ 6 months	ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION	For vaccine brands and eligibility see: www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx
People with at risk conditions ≥6 months ≥65 years		
Pregnant women		

† The term Aboriginal is inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. ‡ IPD: Invasive pneumococcal disease. *AIH: Online Australian Immunisation Handbook.