

Policy Statement

This policy acts to ensure that:

- Children, staff and families using our services are protected from contracting vaccine preventable diseases
- The service supports the Department of Health's objectives for full immunisation of all children

Goals

- Protect children, staff and families attending our services from contracting vaccine preventable diseases

Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider/Coordinator

- 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 regard to immunisation to all Educators and families
- Abide by the Infectious Diseases 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 Infectious Diseases Policy and exclusion periods relating to immunisation, and throughout the year in newsletters and emails
- Ensure that FDC 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 **ACIR Immunisation History Statement** which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations

Policy Created
February 2016

Policy Last Updated
February 2023

Policy Review Date
February 2025

- A **ACIR Immunisation History Form** on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule
- **An ACIR Medical Exemption Form** which has been certified by GP
- Under the NSW Government Legislation introduced in January 2018 families must meet the Government's Requirements in order to be eligible for CCS
- The following records **will not** be accepted as proof of immunisation:
 - NSW Personal Health Record (blue Book)
 - A GP Letter
 - An Overseas Immunisation Record
- Advise all Educators upon registration of the Infectious Diseases Policy which states exclusion periods relating to immunisation
- Encourage Educators to maintain their immunity through Immunisation
- Advise all persons entering the service 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 Service Coordinators immediately by phone where necessary
- 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 Centre's 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
 - Hemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
 - Measles
 - Meningococcal C
 - Mumps
 - Pertussis (whooping cough)
 - Poliomyelitis
 - Rubella
 - Tetanus
- 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
- Store Immunisation Records for a period of 3 years after the child has ceased care with the service

Educators

- Consider maintaining, through immunisation, their immunity to common childhood diseases

FDC Educators

- 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
- Provide CCEL with Immunisation History Record Statements for their own children upon registration and as their child's immunisation is updated

Families

- When their child attends an Early Education and Care Service provide the service with their child's Immunisation History Statement with one or more of the following documents:
 - A **ACIR Immunisation History Statement** which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations
 - A **ACIR Immunisation History Form** on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule
 - An **ACIR Medical Exemption Form** which has been certified by GP
- In order to be eligible for CCS a child must:
 - Be fully immunised for their age or
 - Give a medical reason not be vaccinated or
 - Is on a recognised catch-up schedule if the child has fallen behind with their immunisations
- 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
- Where an Educator or a Family have not immunised their child due to medical reasons, the Exclusion Policy in relation to Immunisation will apply in the case of an outbreak of immunise preventable diseases

Continual Monitoring and Improvement

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

- Incidental and planned consultation with families
- Approved Provider and Coordinators accessing current relevant information
- Approved Provider, Coordinators and Educators accessing current and relevant training
- Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

NSW Immunisation Schedule

Funded October 2021



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 OR ADACEL (IM)	
	Human papillomavirus	GARDASIL 9 (IM)	
Year 10	Meningococcal ACWY	NIMENRIX (IM)	
Pregnant	Influenza	INFLUENZA	Influenza: Any trimester Pertussis: each pregnancy between 20-32 weeks
	Pertussis	BOOSTRIX OR ADACEL (IM)	
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 31/10/2023
	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	ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION	For vaccine brands and eligibility see: www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx
Aboriginal people ≥ 6 months		
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.

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LINKS TO:

→ Education & Care Services National Law Section 167

→ Education & Care Services National Regulations 77, 88, 168, 169, 170

→ National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.1, 2.2, 6.1, 7.1

→ Child Safe Standards 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6,7, 8, 9,10

SOURCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulations - December 2021
- Education and care Services National Law - January 2022
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations - October 2017
- Guide to the National Quality Standard - January 2020
- Implementing the Child Safe Standards: A Guide for Early Education and Outside School Hours Care Services, NSW Department of Education, 2021
- A Guide to the Child Safe Standards, NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, 2020
- ACECQA – FDC Approved Provider compliance responsibilities – October 2017
- Be You
- My Time Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia
- ECA Code of Ethics
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- NSW Department of Health Communicable Diseases
- NSW Public Health Act 2010
- NSW Health, Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit for Early Childhood Education and Care Services, November 2018
- NSW Health

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:

- Covid-19
- Enrolment & Orientation
- Infectious Diseases
- Child-Safe Environment