

Relevant Legislation
Education and Care Services National Regulations
85 Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
88 Infectious diseases
162 Health information to be kept in enrolment record

National Quality Standards		
Quality Area 2: Children’s health and safety		
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.

### Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to ensure compliance with: -

- The Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2011 (Revised 2018) and the Education and Care Services National Quality Standards (Revised 2018).
- The Public Health Amendment Review

These set out the requirements for Health and Safety policies and practices in relation to immunisation status and the required records for children to be enrolled in New South Wales Early Childhood Education and Care Services

### Rationale

The incidence of many diseases has reduced greatly due to immunisation.

From 1 January 2018 the Australian Government’s amendment to The Public Health Act came into effect to strengthen vaccination enrolment requirements in childcare (also known as early childhood education and care).

From 1 January 2018 children who are unvaccinated due to their parent’s conscientious objection can no longer be enrolled in childcare.

Bright Horizons Australia Childcare Pty Ltd supports this legislation and is committed to the health and well-being of our staff, children and families. We encourage everyone to make sure their vaccinations are up to date.

### Practices

- Parents/Guardians will be required to provide a copy of their child’s Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) on enrolment. Under the legislation, no child can commence care in our service’s unless an Immunisation History has been provided.
- From 1 January 2018, parents/guardians must provide a copy of one or more of the following documents to enrol in a childcare 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.

**No other form of documentation is acceptable (i.e. the Interim Vaccination Objection Form or Blue Book).**

- Parents/Guardians who do not provide the required documents cannot enrol their child in our childcare facility.
- The documents must be stored in a secure location for 3 years
- Parents/Guardians will be required to provide an updated copy of their child's Immunisation History Statement following each immunisation.
- Parents/Guardians can obtain a copy of their child's Immunisation History Statement at any time by contacting Medicare:
  - Using their Medicare online account through MyGov
  - Using the Medicare Express Plus App
  - Calling the AIR General Enquiries Line 1800 653 809

## Procedures

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### Service Manager/Nominated Supervisor:

- If an outbreak of a disease that is preventable by immunisation occurs at the service, un-immunised children, children who are on a recognised catch-up schedule, or who have a registered medical exemption will be excluded from the service for the incubation time listed in the Infectious Diseases Exclusion Table. This will include even those children who appear well during the outbreak period, and fees must continue to be paid as per normal during this time of exclusion.
- Parents/Guardians and Employees will be notified of an outbreak of an infectious disease verbally and via written notices.
- The Service will provide parents/guardians with information about immunisation schedules via pamphlets, noticeboards and newsletters. Information will be provided in multiple languages when available.

### Employees:

- Children and Educators who are not fully vaccinated will be excluded from the service if an excludable infectious illness or disease has been confirmed at the service.
- Employees will provide details of immunisation status upon commencement of employment, which will be kept in the employee's confidential file.
- Children and Educators who are not fully vaccinated will be excluded from the service if an excludable infectious illness or disease has been confirmed at the service.
- Employees will be encouraged to keep up to date with their recommended vaccinations as per the current immunisation schedule.
- Employees will receive information at orientation in relation to immunisation and infectious diseases as well as having regular access to updated information.

## Parents/Guardians:

- Parents/Guardians will be required to provide an up-to-date copy of their child's Immunisation History Statement following each immunisation.
- If an outbreak of a disease that is preventable by immunisation occurs at the service, un-immunised children, children who are on a recognised catch-up schedule, or who have a registered medical exemption will be excluded from the service for the incubation time listed in the Infectious Diseases Exclusion Table. This will include even those children who appear well during the outbreak period, and fees must continue to be paid as per normal during this time of exclusion.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified of an outbreak of an infectious disease verbally and via written notices.

## Associated Documents

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- Infectious Diseases of Childhood Fact Sheet
- Infectious Diseases Policy
- NSW Immunisation Schedule
- Immunisation History Statement

## References

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*Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (Revised 2018)*

*National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care*

*National Quality Standards for Education and Care Services (Revised 2018)*

*National Immunisation Program Schedule*

*Vaccination: Questions and Answers for Childcare Centres – NSW Health*

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/childcare](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/childcare)

## Resources

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*The Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority:* <http://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

*Public Health Amendment (Review) Act 2017*

## Notes

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Information relating to this policy is communicated throughout the Service using a variety of the following:

Newsletters, emails, parent and employee handbooks, team meetings and memos, planned experiences for the children, notice boards and posters, pamphlets and information sheets in the foyer, role modelling and signs displayed around the classrooms and Service.

Policy Written by: Lauren McMahon & Tamir Tukino	Version 1.4	Date: June 2021
Approved by: General Manager	Approved Date: June 2021	Next review date: March 2022

## NSW Immunisation Schedule

Funded July 2020



CHILDHOOD VACCINES			
AGE	DISEASE	VACCINE	INFORMATION
Birth	Hepatitis B	H-B-VAX II <b>OR</b> 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 <b>OR</b> PRIORIX (IM or SC)	
	Meningococcal B (Aboriginal children only)	BEXSERO (IM)	
18 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis	INFANRIX <b>OR</b> TRIPACEL (IM)	
	Measles, mumps, rubella, varicella	PRIORIX TETRA <b>OR</b> PROQUAD (IM or SC)	
	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	ACT-HIB (IM OR SC)	
4 years	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio	INFANRIX-IPV <b>OR</b> 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 <b>OR</b> 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	ZOSTAVAX (SC)	Zoster: Catch up available for 71-79 year olds until 31/10/2021
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: <a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx">www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx</a>
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.



# Immunisation Policy – New South Wales

QA2 – P20

By completing and signing the below, I confirm that I have read and understood the above policy. I agree to implement this policy.

Educator Name	Signature of Educator	Date