

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).

This sets out the requirements for Health and Safety policies and practices in relation to immunisation records.

Rationale

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

Our Service would like to keep the children and Employees as healthy and safe as possible. As such, we aim to provide information on immunisation to parents/guardians and employees.

From the 1st January 2016, under the ‘No Jab, No Play’ legislation, a child commencing at our centre must be fully immunised for their age or, on a vaccination catch-up program or, be unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons and have a medical exemption registered with the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR), or be eligible for the ‘grace period’.

Children and employees who are not fully vaccinated will be excluded from the service if an excludable infectious illness or disease has been confirmed at the service.

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 services unless this Immunisation History Statement has been provided.
- Parents/Guardians will be required to provide an updated copy of their child’s Immunisation History Statement following each immunisation.

Procedures

Service Manager/Nominated Supervisor

- 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.
- Parents/Guardians and employees will be notified of an outbreak of an infectious disease via written notices.
- Under the No Jab, No Play law, only vulnerable and disadvantaged children will be eligible to enrol in a service under a grace period, without having provided proof of up to date immunisation. The grace period provisions allow the family to continue to access early childhood education and care services while receiving information and assistance to get their child's immunisations up to date and to obtain the required immunisation documentation that needs to be provided to the service. Children eligible to be enrolled under the grace period include:
 - Using their Medicare online account through MyGov
 - Using the Medicare Express Plus App
 - Calling the AIR General Enquiries Line 1800 653 809

Employees

- Children and employees 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 Team Members' confidential file.
- 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. in the form of a Team Member's resource folder or display in the staff room.

Parents/Guardians

- If an outbreak of a disease that is preventable by immunisation occurs at the service, un-immunised children, who are on a recognised catch-up schedule, have a registered medical exemption, or who are eligible for the grace period (referred to below) will be excluded for the incubation time listed in the Infectious Diseases Exclusion Table. This will include children who appear well during the outbreak period.
- Children enrolled in the service prior to the 1st January 2016 and currently on a 'Conscientious objection' will continue their enrolment however under the Commonwealth Government's 'No Jab, No Play' initiative they will no longer be eligible for the Childcare Subsidy) and therefore will be required to pay full fees. Please note that children who change services from the 1st January 2016 are no longer eligible for the 'Conscientious objection'.
- Parents/Guardians can obtain a copy of their child's Immunisation History Statement at any time by contacting Medicare.

- In some circumstances specific groups may be eligible for the grace period. The grace period is for 16 weeks commencing from the date that the child first attends care. These groups may include:
 - Children evacuated from their place of residence due to an emergency such as a flood or bushfire
 - Children in emergency care within the meaning of section 3(1) of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005
 - Children in the care of an adult who are not the child's parent due to exceptional circumstances such as illness or incapacity.
 - Children identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
 - Children whose parents/guardians hold a health care card, a pensioner concession card, a Veterans Affairs Gold or White card
 - Children from a multiple birth of triplets or more
 - Any other circumstance specified in the guidelines made by the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services

Your Service Manager can assist you in determining your eligibility for the grace period.
- Children and employees who are not fully vaccinated will be excluded from the service if an excludable infectious illness or disease has been confirmed at the service.

Associated Documents

- Grace Period eligibility checklist (once developed by the Department of Health and Human Services)
- Immunisation History Statement
- Immunisation Schedule

References

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (Revised 2018)

Immunisation Schedule Victoria

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

No Jab, No Play – frequently asked questions, 20 October 2015 (Victorian State Government)

Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Act 2015

The Public Health Act Amendment (review) 2017

Resources

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

Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Act 2015

No Jab, No Play – frequently asked questions, 20 October 2015 (Victorian State Government):
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children-adolescents/no-jab-no-play>

Notes

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

Newsletters, emails, parent and team 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

Immunisation schedule Victoria Infants and children – January 2019

*Live attenuated vaccine Medical risk factors

Age	Disease	Vaccine brand*	Reconstitute	Site given	Route given	Notes
Birth	Hepatitis B	H-B-Vax-II paediatric or Engerix-B paediatric	X	Anterolateral thigh	IM	Give preferably within 24 hours of birth May be given up to 7 days after birth
2 months (from 6 weeks) and 4 months	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, poliomyelitis-hepatitis B- <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	Infanrix hexa	✓	Anterolateral thigh	IM	
	Pneumococcal	Prevenar 13	X	Anterolateral thigh	IM	
	Rotavirus	Rotarix*	X	Mouth	Oral	1st dose must be given before 15 weeks of age 2nd dose must be given before 25 weeks of age
6 months	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-poliomyelitis-hepatitis B- <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	Infanrix hexa	✓	Anterolateral thigh	IM	Give with an 8-week interval after dose 2 of <i>Infanrix hexa</i> at minimum age of 24 weeks.
6 months of age premature baby < 28 weeks gestation or with medical risk factor	Pneumococcal	Prevenar 13	X	Anterolateral thigh	IM	See the online edition of The Australian Immunisation Handbook (handbook) for children with a medical risk
6 months to <5 years - all infants and children	Influenza	As supplied	X	Anterolateral thigh < 12 months of age	IM	Annually. In children aged 6 months to less than 9 years of age in the first year of administration, give 2 doses a minimum of 1 month apart Give 0.25ml dose from 6 months to less than 3 years of age

Immunisation Section – Department of Health and Human Services: 1300 882 008
 Australian Immunisation Register: 1800 653 809
 SAEFVIC - Victoria's vaccine safety service: 1300 882 924 #1

This schedule is intended as a guide only and complete consultation with The Australian Immunisation Handbook is recommended. For additional information refer to the online edition of the immunisation handbook <<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>>



Immunisation schedule Victoria. Infants and children – January 2019 (continued)

*Live attenuated vaccine

Medical risk factors

Age	Disease	Vaccine brand	Reconstitute	Site given	Route given	Notes
12 months	Measles-mumps-rubella	Priorix* or M-M-R-II*	✓	Anterolateral thigh	IM/SC	
	Meningococcal ACWY	Nimenrix	✓	Deltoid	IM	
	Pneumococcal	Prevenar 13	✓	Deltoid	IM	
12 months of age premature baby < 32 weeks gestation or < 2000g birthweight	Hepatitis B	H-B-Vax-II Paediatric or Engerix-B Paediatric	✓	Deltoid	IM	single booster dose
	Measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (chickenpox)	Priorix Tetra* or ProQuad*	✓	Deltoid	Priorix/Tetra SC/IM, Proquad SC	Online edition of the handbook recommends 2nd dose of Varilrix®/Varivax® to reduce incidence of 'breakthrough' varicella. This MUST be on prescription. Minimum 1 month interval for 2 live vaccines.
4 years	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis	Infanrix or Tripacel	✓	Deltoid	IM	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	ActHIB	✓	Anterolateral thigh	IM	
5 years of age and over for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-polio	Infanrix IPV or Quadacel	✓	Deltoid	IM	
	Influenza	As supplied	✓	Deltoid	IM	If less than 9 years of age in the first year of administration, give 2 doses a minimum of 1 month apart
4-5 years of age with medical risk factor	Pneumococcal	Pneumovax 23	✓	Deltoid	IM	See online edition of the handbook for recommended additional doses for children at increased risk
	Tuberculosis	As supplied				BCG* for infants and children under 5 years of age travelling to TB endemic countries
5 years of age and over with medical risk factor	Influenza	Influenza	✓	Deltoid	IM	If less than 9 years of age in the first year of administration, give 2 doses a minimum of 1 month apart
	Intramuscular injection (IM)	Needle size	Angle of needle insertion	Subcutaneous injection (SC)	Needle size	Angle of needle insertion
Infants and children	23G/25G, 25mm length	90° to skin plane	In all persons	25G/26G, 16mm length	45° to skin plane	
Pre-term babies and very small babies	25G/23G, 16mm length	90° to skin plane				

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