



## Immunisation and Disease Prevention Policy

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To be read with -  
Infectious Diseases Policy

### NQS

QA2	2.1.2	Health practices and procedures - Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
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### National Regulations

Regs	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
	88	Infectious diseases
	90	Medical conditions policy
	162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

### Aim

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

### Policy Statement

At Seaford District Community Children's Centre our educators continually review and develop strategies to educate the community and children about how to prevent the spread of infection. We are always looking to maintain the highest standard in the prevention of infectious disease and therefore promote immunisation with families.

### Related Policies

Enrolment Policy  
Food Nutrition and Beverage Policy  
Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Policy  
Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy  
Infectious Diseases Policy  
Medical Conditions Policy  
Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

# Implementation

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule can be accessed and downloaded from <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/>

## National Immunisation Program South Australia Schedule

[http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/867a5f004dda2d17a7dcff6d722e1562/National+Immunisation+Schedule\\_FINAL.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=867a5f004dda2d17a7dcff6d722e1562](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/867a5f004dda2d17a7dcff6d722e1562/National+Immunisation+Schedule_FINAL.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=867a5f004dda2d17a7dcff6d722e1562)

## South Australian Department of Health - Communicable Disease Control Branch - Immunisation Section

<http://www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/immunisation-index.htm>

Telephone 1300 232 272 Fax 8226 7197

*Note homeopathic immunisation is not recognised.*

## Immunisation Records

From 1 January 2020 parents needed to provide an immunisation record at the time of enrolment showing whether the child's immunisations are up to date. **From 7 August 2020, parents who wish to enrol their child must provide a copy of their child's Australian Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) at the time of enrolment showing the child's immunisations are up to date** in line with the National/SA Immunisation Program (including any approved exemptions). If the AIR statement shows the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule, the child can enrol and attend if the end date for the catch-up schedule has not been passed. **No child can attend the service from 7 August 2020 if their immunisations are not up to date or they do not meet the exemption requirements that follow:**

- all children aged less than seven months of age are exempt
- all Aboriginal children have a six-week temporary exemption to enable services to request and collect records
- a temporary exemption for all children under, or coming under, the custody or guardianship of the Chief Executive of the Department for Child Protection, or who are transferring from the custody or guardianship of the Chief Executive of the Department for Child Protection to another guardian or their parent.

In a few special circumstances a certificate from the Chief Public Health Officer or a document approved by the Officer may be accepted. Note a letter from a GP or the SA Child Health and Development Record (Blue Book) are not acceptable.

Records (eg AIR Statements) must be dated no more than one month prior to enrolment.

Immunisation records are also required after a child turns:

- 7 months of age but before they turn 9 months old
- 13 months of age but before they turn 15 months old

- 19 months of age but before they turn 21 months old
- 4 years and 2 months of age but before they turn 4 years and 8 months old

These records must be provided while the child is in the relevant age range. If a child enrolls in or attends the service in between these specified times, the record (eg AIR Statement) must be dated no more than one month prior to enrolment or attendance. We will regularly remind parents to do this via newsletters, emails or letters.

The AIR maintains immunisation records for children until they turn 20. AIR Immunisation History Statements can be requested using Medicare online accounts through myGov, using Express plus Medicare mobile app, by calling 1800 653 809 or by visiting the local Medicare or Centrelink office. Blank AIR Immunisation History and Exemption forms are available on the Department of Human Services website <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/>

### **Immunisation Register**

Our service will keep an Immunisation Register which records the immunisation status of each child enrolled at the Service including the immunisations each child has received. Immunisation certificates will be placed in the child's file.

### **Catering for Children with Overseas Immunisation Records**

- Overseas immunisation schedules often differ from the schedule recommended in Australia and a child may require extra vaccinations to be up to date with the Australian schedule.
- Parents are responsible for having their child's overseas immunisation record transcribed onto the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR), if your child is less than seven years of age.
- A medical practitioner, registered nurse, registered midwife, enrolled nurse, or a person authorised by the state/territory Health Officer may transcribe overseas immunisation records.

### **Exclusion Periods**

- Information about children's immunisations allows children at risk of catching a vaccine preventable disease to be identified and protected where possible from catching the disease if there's a case of the disease at the service. This information also assists in protecting other children who may still be vulnerable to the disease despite being vaccinated.
- Any child who has not been immunised against a vaccine preventable disease will be excluded if there is a case of the disease at the service, or the child has been in contact with someone outside the Service with the disease. Note it is the responsibility of families to inform the Service that their child has come into contact with someone with a vaccine preventable or infectious disease.
- Exclusion periods will be based on those recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council and any advice by doctors or public health officials. However, the Nominated Supervisor has ultimate discretion about exclusions and the length of the Exclusion Period unless following directions from public health officials with which they must comply.
- During any outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, the Chief Public Health Officer may request information about the names and dates of birth of enrolled children, immunisation

records for each child and parent/guardian contact details. These must be provided to the Officer within 24 hours of the request. He or she may direct the exclusion any child at risk of contracting the disease.

***Parents are responsible for payment of fees while their child is excluded under all circumstances***

## **Immunisation for Educators and Staff**

It is important that educators remain up to date with their vaccinations in order to protect themselves as well as children in their care. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend that educators should be immunised against -

- **Hepatitis A**
- **Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)**

Educators born during or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have antibodies for rubella, require vaccination

- **Varicella** if they have not previously been infected with chickenpox
- **Pertussis** (whooping cough). An adult booster dose is especially important for those educators caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated
- **Influenza** (annually)
- **Hepatitis B** if caring for unimmunised children with intellectual disabilities (although the risk is low).

The Director will:

- regularly provide educators and staff with information about diseases that can be prevented by immunisation through fact sheets and the Staying Healthy in Childcare publication
- regularly advise educators and staff that some infectious diseases may injure an unborn child if the mother is infected while pregnant through fact sheets and the Staying Healthy in Childcare publication. These infections include chickenpox, cytomegalovirus and rubella (German measles)
- ask new employees to confirm in writing that we have provided this information during their induction.
- strongly encourage all non-immune staff to be vaccinated
- advise female educators / staff who are not fully immunised to consider doing so before getting pregnant

- advise pregnant educators and staff to review the Staying Healthy in Childcare publication and consult their medical practitioner to consider the risks of continuing to work at the service
- ensure pregnant educators and staff follow good infection control and hygiene procedures
- allow educators who are not immunised to use their best judgement to decide whether they exclude themselves from the service during an outbreak of an infectious disease.

## **Immunisation Related Payments for Parents - Child Care Subsidy**

Families are eligible for Child care Subsidy if their child is fully immunised, on an approved catch-up schedule or has an approved exemption from immunisation. Approved exemptions include a general practitioner has certified the child can't receive one or more vaccine(s) for medical reasons or the child has a natural immunity, but do not include conscientious objection.

This initiative reminds parents about the importance of immunising their children at each of the milestones.

Further information is available at <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/>

## **Sources**

**Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations**

**National Quality Standard**

**Department of Health and Ageing, National Immunisation Program Schedule**

**NHMRC. Staying Healthy Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition**

**Medicare Australia**

**South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (includes No Jab No Play)**

**Department of Health - Communicable Disease Control Branch- Immunisation Section (including Early Childhood services and Immunisation requirements FAQ)**

**No Jab No Pay Legislation Federal Government**