

IMMUNISATION AND DISEASE PREVENTION POLICY

To be read in conjunction with Infectious Diseases Policy (CHI-ADM-POL-035)

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1 NQS

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|-----|-------|---|
| QA2 | 2.1.2 | Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented. |
|-----|-------|---|

2 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 |

3 Aim

We aim to promote the health and wellbeing of the children, families and educators in our services. We recognise that 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.

4 Related Policies and documents

Enrolment and Booking Policy (CHI-ADM-POL-022)

Nutrition, Food Safety & Allergen Management Policy (CHI-ADM-POL-027)

Health, Hygiene and Cleaning Policy (CHI-ADM-POL-030)

Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy (CHI-ADM-POL-034)

Infectious Diseases Policy (CHI-ADM-POL-035)

Medical Conditions Policy (CHI-ADM-POL-038)

UOW Pulse Ltd Privacy Policy (PUL-BUS-POL-013)

UOW Pulse Immunisation Guidelines

5 Who is affected by this Policy?

Child, Parents, Family, Educator, Management, Visitors, Volunteers. The Kids' Uni Policies and Procedures apply to Kids' Uni North, Kids' Uni South, Kids Uni CBD, Kids Uni iC.

6 Immunisation Records – for children

6.1 It is a Federal Government requirement that child care centres cannot enrol children if the required documents are not provided. Parents must provide a copy of one or more of the following documents to enrol in a childcare centre:

- an Australian Immunisation Register (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). The documents must be stored by the Director in a secure location for 3 years, unless a child transfers to another child care centre.

Parents who do not fully immunise their children up to 19 years of age will no longer be eligible for family assistance payments (Child Care Subsidy and Family Tax Benefit) with exceptions for children with medical contraindications or those on a recognised catch-up schedule.

- 6.3 Parents may provide copies of certificates instead of the originals. An immunisation certificate is:
- ◆ An Immunisation History Statement provided by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR). The ACIR maintains immunisation records for children up until their seventh birthday and can be contacted on 1800 653 809.
- 6.4 Parents/guardians must provide the Service with an updated copy of their child's immunisation record when the child receives a vaccine which is on the National or State immunisation schedule. We will regularly remind parents to do this via newsletters, emails or letters.

7 Immunisation Register

- 7.1 Our Service will keep an Immunisation Register, which records the immunisation status of each child enrolled at the Service.
- 7.2 If requested, our Service will provide a copy of the record and certificates kept for a child in the Immunisation Register to:
- ◆ The parent of the child so they can enrol the child at another education and care Service or
 - ◆ The Approved provider or Nominated Supervisor of another Service at which the child may enrol.

8 Catering for Children with Overseas Immunisation Records

- 8.1 Overseas immunisation records must not be accepted by childcare centres. The overseas immunisation records need to be assessed by an Australian immunisation provider who will transfer the information to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Parents can then request an AIR Immunisation History Statement.

9 Immunisation Related Payments for Parents – Child Care Subsidy

- 11.1 The benefit applies to children who are fully immunised or have an approved exemption from immunisation (see below). This initiative ensures parents are reminded of the importance of immunising their children at each of the milestones.
- 11.2 For parents to receive CCS without their child being fully immunised your Doctor or immunisation provider needs to certify that your child:
- i. Is on a catch-up immunisation schedule or
 - iii. Has an approved exemption from the immunisation requirements. Approved exemptions include, medical reason.
- 11.3 Parents are responsible for payment of fees while their child is excluded under all circumstances.
- 11.4 Further information regarding Child Care Subsidy and Immunisation is available at the following link:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy/who-can-get-it/immunisation-requirements>

10 Current Immunisation Schedule – TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Publications/nsw-immunisation-schedule.pdf>

| NSW Immunisation Schedule | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| updated April 2019 | | |
| | | |
| AGE | DISEASE | VACCINE |
| CHILDHOOD VACCINES | | |
| Birth | Hepatitis B | H-B-VAX II OR ENGERIX B |
| 6 weeks | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b, hepatitis B, polio | INFANRIX HEXA |
| | Pneumococcal | PREVENAR 13 |
| | Rotavirus | ROTARIX |
| 4 months | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b, hepatitis B, polio | INFANRIX HEXA |
| | Pneumococcal | PREVENAR 13 |
| | Rotavirus | ROTARIX |
| 6 months ¹ | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b, hepatitis B, polio | INFANRIX HEXA |
| 12 months | Meningococcal ACWY | NIMENRIX |
| | Pneumococcal | PREVENAR 13 |
| | Measles, mumps, rubella | MMR II OR PRIORIX |
| 18 months | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis | INFANRIX OR TRIPACEL |
| | Measles, mumps, rubella, varicella | PRIORIX TETRA OR PROQUAD |
| | <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b | ACT-HIB |
| 4 years ² | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio | INFANRIX-IPV OR QUADRACEL |
| ADOLESCENT VACCINES - SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM | | |
| Year 7 | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis | BOOSTRIX |
| | Human papillomavirus (2 doses) | GARDASIL 9 |
| Year 10 | Meningococcal ACWY | NIMENRIX |
| ADULT VACCINES | | |
| Pregnant women | Influenza (Annually-any trimester) | INFLUENZA |
| | Pertussis (ideally between 20-32 weeks) | BOOSTRIX OR ADACEL |
| 65 years and over | Influenza (Annually) | FLUAD |
| | Pneumococcal (One dose, unless medical risk conditions exist) ^{3,4} | PNEUMOVAX 23 |
| 70 years (Catch-up for 71-79 years until 31 October 2021) | Zoster | ZOSTAVAX |
| AT RISK GROUPS | | |
| All children 6 months to < 5 years | | INFLUENZA |
| Aboriginal people 6 months and over | Influenza (annual) | INFLUENZA |
| 6 months and over with medical risk conditions ⁴ | | |
| Aboriginal people 15-49 years with medical risk factors | Pneumococcal ^{3,4} | PNEUMOVAX 23 |
| Aboriginal people 50 years and over | | |

¹ At risk children require an additional dose of pneumococcal (Prevenar 13). ² At risk children require an additional dose of pneumococcal (Pneumovax 23). ³ Refer to the current edition of The Australian Immunisation Handbook for timing of doses. ⁴ Refer to the current online edition of The Australian Immunisation Handbook for all medical risk factors and conditions.

11 Immunisation Requirements for Staff and Visitors

In line with the NSW Department of Health, Public Health Order (*Public Health (COVID-19 Vaccination of Education and Care Workers) Order 2021*) that comes into effect on 8th November, 2021, all staff and visitors in our services will be required to provide a copy of their COVID-19 vaccination record which will be sighted and recorded. Please also refer to the *UOW Pulse Immunisation Guidelines*.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends that all educators and other staff also consider being immunised for the following:

- Pertussis
- Measles – mumps – rubella
- Varicella
- Hepatitis A

The NHMRC also advise staff to consider having yearly influenza vaccinations.

12 Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulation

National Quality Standards

NHMRC. Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing infectious diseases in child care 5th edition

Medicare Australia - <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/patients/acir/schedule.jsp>

Public Health Act 2010 (as amended by Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013)

Public Health Regulation 2012

Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Regulation 2013

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/default.aspx>

13 Review

The policy will be reviewed every 2 years. The review will be conducted by, Management, Employees, Families and Interested Parties

14 Version Control Table

| Version Control | Date Released | Next Review | Approved By | Amendment |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--|---|
| 1 | February 2012 | February 2013 | Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni | |
| 2 | February 2013 | February 2014 | Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni | Paragraph inserted re application of policies across all centres. Migrated into new QA format. |
| 3 | September 2013 | September 2013 | Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni | Several Changes made to reflect new legislation commencing 1 January 2014 |
| 4 | January 2015 | January 2016 | Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni | Annual Review including the addition of the National Immunisation Schedule website link and added the NSW Immunisation Schedule as recommended by 'Centre Support' |
| 5 | January 2016 | January 2017 | M. Gillmore – General Manager | Jan 2016 Changes to immunisation to remove conscientious objections as an exemption |
| 6 | Jul 2018 | Jul 2020 | K.Grose – Children's Services Manager | Updated new enrolment requirements relating to immunisation. Updated relevant links. Updated NQS references. Removed information that is repetitious in the infectious diseases policy |
| 7 | November 2019 | Jul 2020 | Nicole Bray – Director Kids Uni iC | Updated to reflect name changes to Kids Uni iC |

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|---|----------------|----------------|--|---|
| 8 | March 2020 | March 2022 | K.Grose – Children's Services Manager | Added revised immunisation schedule Updated links and references |
| 9 | November, 2021 | November, 2023 | K. Grose – Children's Services Manager | Added immunisation requirements for staff and visitors Added reference to the UOW Pulse Immunisation Guidelines Added reference to the <i>Public Health (COVID-19 Vaccination of Education and Care Workers) Order 2021</i> |