

IMMUNISATION AND DISEASE PREVENTION POLICY

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

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1 NQS

QA2	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
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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 their Doctor or immunisation provider needs to certify that their 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 June 2023



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, hepatitis B, polio, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	INFANRIX HEXA (IM) OR VAXELIS (IM)	
	Pneumococcal	PREVENAR 13 (IM)	
	Rotavirus	ROTARIX (Oral)	Rotarix: Dose 1 limited to 6-14 weeks of age
	Meningococcal B (Aboriginal* children only)	BEXSERO (IM)	Bexsero: Prophylactic paracetamol recommended.
4 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, polio, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	INFANRIX HEXA (IM) OR VAXELIS (IM)	
	Pneumococcal	PREVENAR 13 (IM)	
	Rotavirus	ROTARIX (Oral)	Rotarix: Dose 2 limited to 10-24 weeks
	Meningococcal B (Aboriginal* children only)	BEXSERO (IM)	Bexsero: Prophylactic paracetamol recommended.
6 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, polio, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	INFANRIX HEXA (IM) OR VAXELIS (IM)	Children ≥6 months with at risk conditions for IPD‡ are recommended to receive an additional dose of Prevenar 13 – see (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)	
	Pneumococcal	PREVENAR 13 (IM)	
	Measles, mumps, rubella	MMR II OR PRIORIX (IM or SC)	
	Meningococcal B (Aboriginal* children only)	BEXSERO (IM)	Bexsero: Prophylactic paracetamol recommended.
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 ^y 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	BOOSTRIX OR 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 years 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 ^y 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	Discuss influenza vaccination with other present family members. 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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11 Immunisation Requirements for Staff and Visitors

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 3 years, or as changes occur. 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
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>

10	September, 2023	November, 2026	K. Grose – Head of Early Education	Removed clause requiring COVID vaccinations Updated immunisation schedule.
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