

IMMUNISATION POLICY

When groups of children are together, illness and disease can spread rapidly. Preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough can have serious health consequences for children, and especially young children. Staff members who work in an early childhood education and care service are also at increased risk of contracting certain infectious illnesses. Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases. Dalas Service implements the Australian Government Department of Health, 'No Jab No Play' policy.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
172(2)(g)	a notice stating that there has been an occurrence of an infectious disease at the premises
EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW	
174(2)(a)	Notification to the Regulatory Authority- (a) any serious incident at the approved education and care service

Victorian Child Safe Standards	
Standard 1	Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued
Standard 2	Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture
Standard 3	Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
Standard 4	Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing
Standard 5	Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice
Standard 6	People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice
Standard 7	Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused
Standard 8	Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training
Standard 9	Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed
Standard 10	Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved
Standard 11	Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved

RELATED POLICIES

Control of infectious Disease Policy COVID 19 Management Policy Enrolment Policy Family Communication Policy Incident, Illness, Accident and Trauma Policy	Record, Keeping and Retention Policy Infectious Disease Policy Sick Children Policy Pregnancy in Early Childhood Policy Control of Infectious Disease Policy Work Healthy and Safety Policy Orientation of new Families Policy
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to manage and prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and diseases. Dalas Family Day Care Service has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families, and educators are protected from infectious diseases whilst attending FDC. Along with maintaining a clean and hygienic environment, this also includes notifying families and educators when an excludable illness or disease is present in a FDC residence/venue, maintaining a record of children's and educators' immunisation status,

complying with relevant health department exclusion guidelines, and increasing educators' awareness of cross-infection.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Coordinator, Educators, Educator Assistants, children, families, and visitors of the Family Day Care Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Immunisation is a reliable way to prevent many childhood diseases. Immunisation works by giving the person a vaccine (weakened or killed disease-causing bacteria or virus), against a particular disease. This makes the person's immune system respond in a similar way to how it would respond if they actually had the disease, but with less severe, or possibly no symptoms. The vaccine therefore leads to the creation of antibodies that provide future protection if the person comes into contact with the disease.

Immunisation also protects other people who are not immunised, such as children who are too young to be immunised, or people whose immune systems did not respond to the vaccine. This is because the more people who are immunised against a disease, the lower the chance that a person will ever come into contact with someone who has the disease. The chance of an infection spreading in a community therefore decreases if a large proportion of people are immunised, because the immune people will not become infected and can protect the vulnerable people; this is known as 'herd immunity'.

Children must meet the immunisation requirements to be eligible for Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A and Child Care Subsidy (CCS). As of January 2018, unvaccinated children due to their parent's conscientious objection are no longer able to be enrolled in childcare in Victoria. Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule may still be enrolled upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.

From 1 November 2018, parents/carers of children attending early childhood services are required to provide the service with evidence that their child continues to be up to date with immunisations while attending the service.

Under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, in order to finalise an enrolment for a child in a kindergarten, long day care, family day care or an occasional care service:

- a current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register must be provided to the early childhood service, and
- the statement must show that the child is up to date with all the vaccinations they are due/able to receive or
- the child is eligible to enrol under the grace period.

Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule may still be enrolled upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/COORDINATOR WILL:

- ensure information about immunisation, infectious diseases and exclusion periods is available to families at time of enrolment/orientation and is included in Family Handbook
- advise parents and families about the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#)
- ensure that evidence is provided for each child prior to enrolment that confirms the child is fully immunised for their age or has a medical reason not be immunised (Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as evidence
- provide FDC educators and other staff with information about vaccine-preventable diseases
- develop a staff immunisation record that documents each staff members' and approved FDC educators' previous infection and immunisations (include dates)
- require all new and current FDC educators and staff to complete the staff immunisation record
- update staff immunisation records as staff/educators become vaccinated
- take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff and FDC educators to be vaccinated
- document advice given to FDC educators and other staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests
- ensure all staff and visitors entering FDC Scheme principal office or FDC residence or venue (contractors, health professionals, volunteers, students) hold mandatory immunisation requirements as set by current Public Health Orders (including COVID-19 mandatory vaccination requirements). [\[Check your state/territory for further information\].](#)
- NSW FDC Services- ensure the FDC residence or venue is not open to provide education and care unless each adult residence has
 - o evidence of 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccination or

- a medical contraindication certificates
- review children's immunisation regularly, updating the child's records kept at the FDC service, and sending reminder letters and emails to families as required
- provide updates to FDC educators for their own records
- take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff and FDC educators to be vaccinated
- document advice given to FDC educators and other staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests
- provide wall charts about childhood immunisation schedules to FDC educators to display in their residence/venue
- notify families when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs through various channels of communication:
 - verbally
 - through a letter from the FDC educator or Approved Provider
 - posting a note or sign at the entry of the residence
 - via electronic message- text message or email
- notify the Regulatory Authority of any incidence of a notifiable infectious illness or disease [acecqa contact regulatory authority](#)
- exclude any child who is not immunised from the FDC Service if and when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs to protect that child and to prevent further spread of infection. In the instance of the child being immunised but the immunisation record has not been sighted by the FDC Service, the child is to be considered as not being immunised.
- advise any staff members or FDC educators who fall pregnant to visit their GP immediately and have a test for Cytomegalovirus (CMV) to check their immunity. Pregnant FDC educators who are at a heightened risk will be required to double glove when coming into contact with any body fluids, including saliva.

FAMILIES WILL:

- adhere to the Service's policies regarding *Control of Infectious Diseases, Immunisation, Sick Children* and exclusion requirements
- provide the FDC Service with a copy of one or more of the following documents:
 - 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; or
- An AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP
- provide the FDC service with an updated copy of their child's current immunisation record every 6 months, or when the next scheduled immunisation has been completed. A current AIR Immunisation History Statement can be accessed at any time by the parent/guardian through logging in to their Medicare online account: [myGov website](#).
- support their child's exclusion from the Service if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the Service or if they come into contact with a person with a vaccine preventable disease, even if there is no outbreak at the Service.

INFORMATION	WEBSITE/INFORMATION	PHONE NUMBER
The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Service	https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program	1800 020 103
Notification of an occurrence of an infectious disease/vaccine preventable disease	Notify local Public Health Unit Provide information to families about the infectious disease- Children unimmunised against vaccine preventable diseases must be excluded from care	1300 066 055
Australian Government Department of Health	In the event of a community spread virus- (COVID-19) publications from Government agencies will be displayed https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-campaign-resources	1800 020 080

Australian Government Department of Health- Immunisation saves lives

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule can be accessed and downloaded from: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-schedule-portfolio • Department of Health, Victoria Immunisation Program- children https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children Telephone - 1300 882 008 • No Jab No Play https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children/no-jab-no-play • Immunise Australia National Hotline: 1800 671 811

- Australian Government, Department of Human Services:
<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/medicare/getting-your-immunisation-history-statement-using-your-medicare-online-account>

RESOURCES

AIR General Enquiries line 1800 653 809

Australian Government Department of Health *Get the facts on childhood immunisation-help protect your community* <https://campaigns.health.gov.au/immunisationfacts>

Australian Government Services Australia Australian *Immunisation Register*

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>

Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation. (2020). < <http://talkingaboutimmunisation.org.au/>

Immunisation schedule Victoria <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/immunisation-schedule-vaccine-eligibility-criteria/immunisation-schedule-victoria>
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australia Childhood Immunisation Register:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register>

Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, (2020) *Child Care Subsidy immunisation requirements* <https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/immunisation>

Australian Government – Department of Human Services:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/medicare/getting-your-immunisation-history-statement-using-your-medicare-online-account>

Australian Government Department of Health National Immunise Program:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program>

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011).

Federal Register of Legislation *Privacy Act 1988*.

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (amended 2020).

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012). *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services*.

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation. (2020). <http://talkingaboutimmunisation.org.au/>

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	August 2022	NEXT REVIEW DATE	August 2023
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MODIFICATIONS	• Updated under the Victorian requirements • addition related to CCS requirements for immunisation • updates to reflect 'no jab no play' in each state/territory • links to Victorian immunisation schedule checked and edited as required • further resources added	
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE
December, 2021	• New Policy purchased from childcare desktop	2022