

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, especially young children. Staff members who work in an early childhood education and care setting are also at increased risk of certain infectious illnesses. Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases. REED Services implement the Government of Western Australia, Immunisation Requirements 2023.

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

Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012	
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
174(2)(a)	Notification to the Regulatory Authority- (a) any serious incident at the approved education and care service

RELATED POLICIES

Enrolment Policy Family Communication Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy Infectious Disease Policy Orientation Policy	Record Keeping and Retention Policy Pregnancy Policy Sick Children Policy Work Health and Safety 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. REED has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families and educators are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of Service operation. This includes notifying children, families and educators when an excludable illness or disease is present in a Service; maintaining a record of children's and educators' immunisation status; complying to relevant health department exclusion guidelines; and increasing educators' awareness of cross infection.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of REED Services.

IMPLEMENTATION

Immunisation is a reliable way to prevent many childhood diseases. Immunisation works by giving a person a vaccine—often a dead or modified version of the germ—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 symptoms. If the person comes in contact with that germ in the future, their immune system can rapidly respond and prevent the person becoming ill.

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'

In July 2019, changes to the Public Health Act (WA) 2016 came into effect. The new 'No Jab, No Play' legislation* means that all childcare centres are legally required to only enrol a child;

- whose AIR Immunisation History Statement is 'up-to-date',

- who is following an approved catch-up schedule as indicated on the child's AIR Immunisation History Form;
- who has a valid immunisation certificate issued or declared by the Chief Health Officer, or
- if you are satisfied the child is exempt because of particular family circumstances

More Information about the changes is available at
https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Immunisation-enrolment

**This legislation only applies to new enrolments from the 22nd of July 2019.*

Children must meet the immunisation requirements to be eligible for Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A and Child Care Subsidy (CCS).

Management/Nominated Supervisor 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)
- Not enrol a child into a REED Service unless the family has provided a copy of the child's AIR Immunisation History Statement dated not more than two months prior to enrolment, with an 'up-to-date' status, or meets the other requirements of the Public Health Act 2016.
- Provide staff with information about vaccine-preventable diseases
- Notify the Public Health Unit (PHU) of any outbreak of vaccine preventable diseases
- Notify families when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs through various channels of communication:
 - verbally
 - through a letter from the 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 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 Service, the child is to be considered as not being immunised Advise families of any unvaccinated child when there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease or illness.

Families will

- adhere to the REED's policies regarding *Control of Infectious Diseases, Immunisation, Sick Children* and exclusion requirements
- provide REED 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
- 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 TO BE DISPLAYED IN 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 not immunised 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/corona-virus-covid-19-campaign-resources	1800 020 080

More Information:

Western Australia (WA)

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule **TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE** can be accessed and downloaded from: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-schedule-portrait>

- Starting or moving child care, kindergarten or school- immunisation requirements
https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/S_T/Starting-or-moving-schools-immunisation-records
- 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>

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*.

NSW Public Health Act- NSW Government October 2017:
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx#15

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

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

Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
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September 2023	Removal of requirement for REED to collect up to date immunisation information about a child or staff member	September 2025
March 2023	No Changes	March 2024
July 2022	Links reviewed	July 2023
July 2021	Addition of CCS requirements for immunisation, sources updated	June 2022
February 2020	Minor editing and reformatting	February 2021
October 2019	Updated to reflect new legal requirements for enrolment	January 2020
January 2019	Policy developed by REED management	January 2020