

4.19 Childhood Immunisation Policy

The service acknowledges their obligation under the *Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011*, in ensuring that children are free from risk of harm. This extends to limiting exposure to health and safety risks that may arise from the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. Upon enrolment, the service shall request parents/guardians to provide their child's immunisation history statement, in order to determine if enrolment and subsequent attendance will be accepted.



Relevant Laws and other Provisions

The laws and other provisions affecting this policy include:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011*
- *Public Health Act 2005 (QLD)*
- *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*
- *Duty of Care*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety*
- *Policies: 4.2 – Infectious Diseases, 4.4 – Preventative Health and Wellbeing, 4.14 – Infectious Diseases Response Strategy, 9.2 – Enrolment, 9.3 – Communication with Families, 10.8 – Information Handling (Privacy and Confidentiality), 10.9 – Risk Management and Compliance.*



Procedures

Through the service enrolment procedures, parents/guardians will be requested to provide a copy of their child's immunisation history statement to the service within a reasonable timeframe (of up to 2 weeks).

Information will be provided to families, including through the service Family Handbook, about the potential impacts on their child's enrolment or attendance if their child's immunisation status is deemed not up to date (i.e. vulnerable children).

The service will establish risk management procedures relating to monitoring and managing the spread of vaccine preventable diseases at the service. Procedures may include:

- Identifying vaccine preventable diseases as part of the enrolment package;
- Appropriate signage for families regarding infectious disease outbreak; and
- Limiting attendance for vulnerable children during times of infectious disease outbreak (if enrolment has been accepted).

Vulnerable Children

For child/ren who do not have a current immunisation history statement on file, their immunisation status will be considered 'unknown' or 'not up to date', until such time as the correct immunisation documentation is provided.

If the parent/guardian does not provide the child's immunisation history statement within the reasonable timeframe allowed, the child's enrolment may be:

- Refused or cancelled;
- Accepted, with attendance refused until proof of up-to-date immunisation status is provided; or
- Accepted, with specific conditions in place. Specific conditions may include restricting care during an outbreak of infectious disease at the service.

Families of vulnerable children (i.e., those children whose immunisation status is deemed 'not up to date') whose enrolments have been accepted (with or without conditions) will not be eligible for Child Care Subsidy (CCS)

Medical Contraindication

Enrolment and/or attendance for a child cannot be refused based on their immunisation status if they have a medical contraindication to some or all scheduled vaccines. Whilst not technically vaccinated, these children are still classified as having an 'up to date' immunisation status and this should be indicated on their immunisation history statement.

Conscientious Objection

Children of families who have recorded a conscientious objection to vaccination through the 'Australian Childhood Immunisation Register' will have their immunisation status registered as 'not up to date'. Acceptance or refusal of enrolment will be as per the procedures of this policy relating to vulnerable children.

DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
August 2018	August 2018	October 2021	October 2021
		April 2023	May 2023