

Edgeworth Child Care Centre Inc.

Child and Educators/Staff Immunisation Policy

Aim

To minimise risks, complications and the spread of vaccine preventable diseases, the service encourages children, educators and other staff members to have up to date immunisation in accordance with the National Immunisation Program Schedule, and keeps an up to date register of children's and educators'/staff's immunisation.

Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
Public Health Act 2010
Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013
Public Health Regulation 2012

Who is affected by this policy?

Children
Staff
Educators
Parents
Management
Visitors

Implementation

To minimise risks, complications and the spread of vaccine preventable diseases, Edgeworth Child Care Centre will:

- 1 The *Public Health Act 2010* requires parents of all children enrolling in child care facilities and pre-schools from 1994 to provide documented evidence of the child's immunisation status. Vaccinations received should be appropriate to the child's age. Immunisation is not compulsory; however, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease at the Service, unimmunised children will be required to remain at home throughout the duration of the outbreak. Documentation accepted under the *Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013* is:
 - A current **Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) Immunisation History Statement** which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations;
 - A current **ACIR Immunisation History Form** on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule;
 - An **ACIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form** certified by a General Practitioner confirming that an individual (under 20 years of age) has a vaccine exemption due to a medical contraindication or natural immunity); or

- **A NSW Health Interim Vaccination Objection Form for Enrolment in NSW Child Care Centres form** which has been completed and signed by the parent/ guardian of the child who has an objection to vaccination; and an Australian Childhood Immunisation Register immunisation provider.
- 2 It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure their child's immunisation is up to date.
 - 3 An Immunisation register will be kept with a separate record for each child and educator/staff member at the Service.
 - Parents/Guardians will be provided regularly with reminders to update their immunisation register
 - Parents/Guardian must provide updates to the child's immunisation record. Failure to comply with this directive will mean the child will be regarded as being unimmunised.
 - Educators/Staff will advise management with updates to immunisation.
 - 4 Edgeworth Child Care Centre will provide information on and encourage all children and educators/staff to have up to date/age appropriate immunisation in accordance with the current National Immunisation Program Schedule.
 - 5 When required inform families that homeopathic immunisation has not been proven to give protection against infectious diseases. Children who have only received homeopathic immunisation are considered not to be protected against vaccine preventable diseases and they are not considered immunised for the purposes of the *Public Health Act (2010)*.
 - 6 In recognition of the higher rates of disease in some Aboriginal and Torres Islander communities, some additional vaccines are funded under the National Immunisations Program. These are listed on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People page of the Immunise Australia Program website.
 - 7 The Public Health Unit is to be advised as soon as the service is aware that a child has contracted a vaccine-preventable disease. The Medical Officer of Health may direct that unimmunised contacts be excluded from the service for the duration of the outbreak. Any such directive must be complied with.
 - 8 If required by the Public Health unit all families, educators/staff and persons normally working or visiting the premises will be notified in writing that an outbreak of a particular infectious disease has occurred.
 - 9 On instruction from the Public Health Unit, the child/educator/staff that is to be excluded will be notified in writing, and the service must ensure that the child/educator/staff is excluded for the specified period.
 - 10 The Immunisation Register must be made available for inspection by the NSW Health Medical Officer, the local Public Health Unit, or Officers of the Department of Education. The Department of Education provides compliance support by checking that services are maintaining an immunisation register and all other documentation for children enrolled in the service, as required under the NSW *Public Health Act 2010*.
 - 11 Parents/Guardians will be told on enrolment that all unimmunised children will be excluded if a there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, if advised by the Public Health Unit.
 - 12 **Parents/Guardians are responsible for payment of fees while their child is excluded.**

Families with children who are not immunised (and do not have an approved exemption) will NOT receive the Child Care Benefit, Child Care Rebate or Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement. Vaccine objection will no longer be an exemption category.

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
NSW Public Health Act 2010
NSW Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Act 2013
Public Health Regulation 2012
Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care 5th Edition
NSW Health Immunisation Programs
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/default.aspx>
National Immunisation Program Schedule:
<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule> Retrieved 25 10 17
Immunise Australia Program www.immunise.health.gov.au Retrieved 25 10 17
Department of Social Services <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefits-payments/strengthening-immunisation-for-young-children>
Department of Education and Training No Jab No Pay Fact Sheet
https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/no_jab_no_pay_-_changes_to_immunisation_requirements.pdf Retrieved 25 10 17
Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register> Retrieved 25 10 17

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: 27 October 2017

Date for next review: October 2018