

D-14 Immunisation

Epping Heights OSHC.

NQS

QA. 2.1	Health.
QA. 2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort.
QA. 2.1.2	Health practices and procedures.
QA. 6.1.1	Engagement with the service.
QA. 6.1.3	Families are supported.
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems.
QA. 7.2.1	Continuous improvement.

National Regulations

Reg. 88	Infectious diseases
Reg. 162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

POLICY STATEMENT

We respect the right of individual parents whether to immunise or not to immunise their children. However children who are not immunised will be excluded for the period of an outbreak that is a vaccine-preventable disease. Proof of immunisation will be sought at the enrolment stage and kept on file with the enrolment form. To help protect the Epping Heights community educators are expected to follow Public Health Orders.

RELATED POLICIES

- Epping Heights OSHC Policy A-4: Enrolment
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy A-6: Fees
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy A-11: Maintenance of Records
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy C-2: Conditions of Employment
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy C-3: Staff Orientation and Induction
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-2: Hygiene
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-13: Illness and Infectious Disease
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-21: HIV/AIDS and HEP B & C
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-32: Covid-19

PROCEDURE

Under the Public Health Act 2010, the only people who can be enrolled in childcare are those who have an approved form that shows that they are:

- Fully immunised for their age, or
- Are on a catch-up schedule, or
- Have a medical reason not to be immunised

Families will provide the Centre with a copy of their Immunisation History Statement (from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register) upon enrolment as evidence of child's immunisation status. Where an Immunisation History Statement is not available, the Centre will be unable to accept the enrolment. Once received, the ACIR certificate will be kept on file with the child's enrolment form.

Children vaccinated overseas immunisation schedules may be different from the Australian schedule. Their immunisation record will need to be checked by a GP who will transfer the information to the Australian Immunisation Register. Their parents need to request an updated AIR immunisation history statement to give to the centre.

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for maintain a record of each child's immunisation and date for upcoming vaccinations. The immunisation register is to be reviewed regularly, so families can be reminded to provide updated documentation as needed.

In the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease at the Centre or school attended by children at the Centre, children not immunised will be required to stay at home for the duration of the outbreak, for their own protection.

At present there is a risk of transmission of Covid-19 among children attending schools and early education and care facilities. Families will be strongly encouraged to have their children vaccinated and provide a copy of their child/ren's updated immunisation certificate.

In the event that any child contracts a vaccine-preventable disease, The Public Health Unit will be notified:

NSW Health

Public Health Division

1300 066 055

Payment of fees will be required for children excluded during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease. Families eligible for Child Care Subsidy, are able to elect for these days excluded from the Centre to be noted as 'approved absences'.

All staff should also maintain through immunisation, their immunity to common childhood diseases.

Staff will be encouraged to undergo immunisation for Hepatitis B if they are not already immunised.

The Public Health Order requiring the vaccination of education and care workers for Covid-19 is no longer in force. NSW Health continues to recommend two doses of the Covid-19 vaccination and a booster shot to reduce the risk of transmission within the community.

Staff will be encouraged to provide immunisation status on employment and when their immunisation status is updated. In line with the immunisation policy, any staff member not immunised against a vaccine-preventable disease will also be excluded for the duration of an outbreak.

It is also recommended that all adults receive a booster dose of tetanus and diphtheria vaccine every ten years.

SOURCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- NSW Public Health Act 2010
- Dept of Health Recommendations
- National Health and Medical Research Council 'Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing infectious diseases in childcare' (2006)
- Public Health (Covid-19 vaccination of Education and Care Workers) Order 2021 (NSW)

Endorsed: 03/07/2024	Review Date: 03/07/2026
----------------------	-------------------------