

PUTNEY PLAYGROUNDS KINDERGARTEN IMMUNISATION AND DISEASE PREVENTION POLICY

To be read with -
Infectious Diseases Policy

NQS

QA2	2.1.1	Each child's health needs are supported.
	2.1.4	Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.

National Regulations

Regs	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
	88	Infectious diseases
	90	Medical conditions policy
	162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

Aim

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

Related Policies

Enrolment Policy
Food Nutrition and Beverage Policy
Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Policy
Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Infectious Diseases Policy
Medical Conditions Policy
Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

Who is affected by this policy?

Child
Parents
Family
Educator
Management
Visitors
Volunteers

Implementation

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aging Immunise Australia Program –
1800 671 811 or www.immunise.health.gov.au/

NSW Health

- **Local NSW Public Health Unit Contact Details -**
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/phus.asp>

Immunisation Records

- Parents who wish to enrol their child are required to provide evidence of their child's immunisation record.
- Parents are required to present the child's immunisation record at the time of enrolment.
- This information allows children at risk of catching a vaccine preventable disease to be identified if there is a case of that disease at the service.
- Acceptable immunisation records are –
 - An immunisation record is a written record of the immunisations that your child has received and the date that they received them.
 - An Immunisation History Statement provided by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) is a valid immunisation record.
 - The original immunisation record must be completed and signed by a medical practitioner, a registered nurse, a registered midwife, an enrolled nurse, or a person authorised by the state/territory Health department.
- The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) maintains immunisation records for children up until their seventh birthday. You can obtain an ACIR Immunisation History Statement for your child by calling 1800 653 809.
- The original immunisation record is usually kept in the personal health record book (called the 'blue book' in NSW). These books are usually given to parents at the time of their child's birth.

- Each child's Immunisation Record should stay intact until your child reaches primary school. Do not remove any of the duplicate pages until this time.
- Parents need to provide the childcare service or preschool with a photocopy of their child's original immunisation record. Alternatively, parents may provide an Immunisation History Statement provided by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).
- The service must be able to quickly access immunisation records and determine who has not been immunised. If there is a case of a vaccine preventable disease, and your child has not been fully immunised for that disease, they may be excluded from school or childcare for a period of time.

Catering for Children with Overseas Immunisation Records

- Overseas immunisation schedules often differ from the schedule recommended in Australia and a child may require extra vaccinations to be up to date with the Australian schedule.
- Parents are responsible for having their child's overseas immunisation record transcribed onto the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR), if your child is less than seven years of age.
- A medical practitioner, registered nurse, registered midwife, enrolled nurse, or a person authorised by the state/territory Health Officer may transcribe overseas immunisation records.

Exclusion Periods

- Whilst the service actively encourages each child, educator and family member using the service to be immunised, we recognise that immunisation is not compulsory.
- If a child's immunisation record is not provided upon enrolment and if it is not updated by the parents, or if the child has not been immunised against certain diseases, then the child will be recorded as being not fully immunised by the service.
- If there is a case of a vaccine preventable disease at the service, your child may be excluded from school or childcare for a period of time or until the evidence of immunisation in an approved record is provided.
- If you cannot provide an immunisation record for your child you may provide a statutory declaration stating either that your child has been immunised or that you don't know if your child has been immunised for each disease on the schedule.
- To be fully immunised your child needs to have received all vaccines recommended for their age as part of the National Immunisation Program (NIP).
- Homeopathic immunisation is not recognised.
- If a child is not fully immunised and has been in contact with someone with a vaccine preventable disease outside of the service, they may need to be excluded from the service for a period of time.
- It is the responsibility of families to inform the service that their child has come into contact with someone with a vaccine preventable or infectious disease.

- Occupational recommendations apply for the immunisation of educators at the service. As there are no mandatory requirements under the law for educators to be immunised, the service must follow the following requirements that our service has developed:
 - The Exclusion Periods requirements above apply to all educators.
 - Educators who are not immunised may use their best judgement to decide whether they exclude themselves from the service during an outbreak of an infectious disease.

Immunisation Related Payments for Parents - Child Care Benefit

The benefit applies to children who are fully immunised or have an approved exemption from immunisation. This initiative ensures parents are reminded of the importance of immunising their children at each of the milestones. For parents to receive benefits without their child being fully immunised your healthcare provider needs to certify that:

- your child has a medical reason not to have a particular vaccination; or
- your child has had a disease and has a natural immunity; or
- a particular vaccine is unavailable.
- Information on how a child's immunisation status affects payments made to a family, and more information on exemptions is available on the following website -
<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/acir/family-assist.jsp#N10059>
- Parents are responsible for payment of fees while their child is excluded under all circumstances.

Current Immunisation Schedule

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule (0 - 4 Years). Valid from 1 July 2007.

Age	Disease immunised against
Birth	Hepatitis B
2 months	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Polio Hib Hepatitis B Pneumococcal (refer to note 1) Rotavirus (refer to note 5)
4 months	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Polio Hib Hepatitis B Pneumococcal (refer to note 1) Rotavirus (refer to note 5)
6 months	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Polio Hib (refer to note 2) Hepatitis B (or at 12 months) Pneumococcal (refer to note 1) Rotavirus (refer to note 6)
12 months	Measles Mumps Rubella Hib Hepatitis B (or at 6 months) Meningococcal C (refer to note 3)
18 months	Varicella (refer to note 4) Pneumococcal (refer to note 7)
4 years	Diphtheria

	Tetanus Pertussis Polio Measles Mumps Rubella
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Note:

1. Pneumococcal vaccine is funded under the NIP for children born from 1 January 2005.
2. Four doses of Hib vaccine are due at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age when 'PRP-T Hib' containing vaccine is used.
3. Meningococcal C vaccine is funded under the NIP for children born from 1 January 2002.
4. Varicella vaccine is funded under the NIP for children born from 1 May 2004.
5. Rotavirus vaccine is funded under the NIP for children born from 1 May 2007.
6. Three doses of Rotavirus vaccine are due at 2, 4 and 6 months of age when RotaTeq vaccine is used.
7. Four doses of Pneumococcal vaccine are due at 2, 4, 6 and 18 months of age when Synflorix vaccine is used.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard

Department of Health and Aging, National Immunisation Program Schedule

NHMRC. Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing infectious diseases in child care 4th edition

Medicare Australia - <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/patients/acir/schedule.jsp>

Public Health Regulations 2000

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. The review will be conducted by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families

Last reviewed: January 2020

Date for next review: January 2021