
ARANDA AFTERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



IMMUNISATION AND DISEASE PREVENTION POLICY

Implemented	Updated/Reviewed	Next Review Due By
May 2015	June 2016	June 2017

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1 REFERENCES

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS

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

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

2 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.

3 IMPLEMENTATION

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule can be accessed and downloaded from:

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/>

ACT GOVERNMENT HEALTH DIRECTORATE - AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY HEALTH INFORMATION

- Immunisation is available by appointments at Child Immunisation clinics across the ACT.
- Your General Practitioner or maternal and child health nurse can provide you and your family with all the information and support you require about the current immunisation schedule.
- Clients can access this service by phoning Community Health Intake on (02) 6207 9977 between 8am and 5pm weekdays.

IMMUNISATION RECORDS

- Parents who wish to enrol their child(ren) are required to state their child(ren)'s immunisation record is up-to-date 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.
- If a child's immunisation record is not up-to-date they will be excluded from the service during periods of an outbreak of a communicable disease.
- More information about maintaining your child(ren)'s Immunisation Record can be obtained at: <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/>

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.
- 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.

IMMUNISATION FOR EDUCATORS

- Occupational recommendations apply for the immunisation of educators at the service. It is important that educators remain up to date with their vaccinations in order to protect themselves as well as children in their care.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends that individuals who work with children, including child care and pre-school staff (including child care students) and outside school hours carers, should be vaccinated against:

- Pertussis (whooping cough)
 - Hepatitis A
 - Measles
 - Mumps
 - Rubella (MMR)
 - Varicella (chickenpox) and
 - Influenza (required annually)
- The service will take all reasonable steps to strongly encourage non-immune workers to be vaccinated.

- As there are no mandatory requirements under the law for educators to be immunised, the service must follow the requirements that our service has developed:
 - the Exclusion Periods requirements above apply to all educators.
 - educators who are not immunised will be excluded from the service until the Director provides instructions for the educator to return to education and care duties at the service.

OR

- 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

From January 2016:

- Only parents of children (less than 20 years of age) who are fully immunised or are on a recognised catch-up schedule can receive the Child Care Benefit, the Child Care Rebate and the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement. The relevant vaccinations are those under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), which covers the vaccines usually administered before age five. These vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).
- Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases will continue to be exempt from the requirements.
- Conscientious objection and vaccination objection on non-medical grounds will no longer be a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.
- Families eligible to receive family assistance payments and have children less than 20 years of age, who may not meet the new immunisation requirements, will be notified by Centrelink.

For more information go on the “No Jab, No Pay” guidelines go to:

[http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/\\$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/67D8681A67167949CA257E2E000EE07D/$File/No-Jab-No-Pay.pdf)

Information on how a child’s immunisation status affects payments made to a family 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.

4 SOURCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- Department of Health and Ageing: National Immunisation Program Schedule NHMRC. Staying Healthy Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition

- Medicare Australia
- Public Health Regulations 2000
- Parents' Guide – ACT immunisation requirements for entry into primary school, preschool and childcare 2010