

IMMUNISATION POLICY

Effective Date: May 2016 (for implementation 2017 cohort)

Review Date: May 2019

Policy Objective

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases that can cause serious health problems in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals from life-threatening diseases, but also dramatically reduces transmission in the community. The more people who are immunised, the fewer opportunities a disease has to spread.

This policy aims to minimise the spread of vaccine preventable diseases in accordance with the current recommendations of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

Procedure

Children who are not immunised in accordance with the National Immunisation Program Schedule will not be eligible for enrolment or continued attendance at West Chermide C&K Pre-Prep.

Special consideration will be given to children who are not immunised due to an “approved medical exemption” as facilitated by a Medical Practitioner and registered with ACIR. Under Australian Government legislation, “conscientious objection” has been removed as a reason for immunisation exemption.

Responsibilities of Parent’s / Guardians

1. At the time of enrolment, the parent or guardian must provide documentary evidence of the immunisation history of the child to the service and acknowledge the West Chermide C&K Pre-Prep policy on immunisation.
 - a. Approved documentary evidence includes an official record issued by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) or a letter from a recognised immunisation provider (General Practitioner or recognised immunisation nurse) which clearly states whether the child’s immunisation status as up to date or not as per the National Immunisation Program Schedule (QLD).
 - b. If a child’s immunisation status is not known or the parent / guardian cannot provide approved documentary evidence, the child’s immunisation status will be considered “not up to date” and they will be ineligible for enrolment.
2. Notify the service of any immunisation status updates of the child.

3. Notify the service if their child has been diagnosed with a vaccine preventable disease or has been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with a vaccine preventable disease.

Responsibilities of educators and staff of West Chermside C&K Pre Prep

1. Upon enrolment, inform parents / guardians of the immunisation policy of the service.
2. Maintain current records of children's immunisation status.
3. If children are not immunised in accordance with this policy, inform parents / guardians that the child will not be able to attend West Chermside C&K Pre-Prep.
4. Implement C&K health and hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and vaccine preventable disease.
5. Provide the service with a staff immunisation record and ensure that this record is current throughout employment in accordance with the National Immunisation Program Schedule. Recommended immunisations for educators in addition to the NIPS include: Hepatitis A; Measles / Mumps / Rubella; Chicken Pox; Pertussis; Influenza.
6. Notify the service if they have been diagnosed with a vaccine preventable disease or have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with a vaccine preventable disease.

Relevant Legislation & Resources

- Public Health Act 2005: Section 160A, Section 160D
- Immunise Australia Program
 - <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au>
- National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule
 - <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule>
- The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
 - acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au
 - Ph 1800 653 809
- The Australian Immunisation Handbook, 10th Edition
 - <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home>