



# Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten

## Immunisation and Infectious Diseases Policy

### **Legislation:**

*Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*  
*Education and Care Services National Regulation 2018*  
*Public Health Amendment Act*  
*Health Act 1958*  
*Information Privacy Act 2000*  
*Health Records Act 2001*

### **Quality Area 2: Children's Health & Safety**

*Education and Care Services National Regulations: 77; 88; 168*

*Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167*

### **LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES/ DOCUMENTS**

- *Enrolment and Orientation*
- *Infectious Diseases*
- *Incidents, Injury, Trauma and Illness*
- *Cleaning and Maintaining the Environment*
- *Workplace Health and Safety*

### **Rationale:**

It is important to work towards maintaining the health and wellbeing of the children both at Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten and in the community. Taking steps to minimise the spread of disease and infection is a responsibility of all. The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 requires parents of all children enrolling in child care facilities and preschools from 1994 to provide documented evidence of the child's immunisation status and if not immunised to keep their children away when there are cases of vaccine preventable diseases at the facility.

The NSW Parliament passed a Bill to amend the Public Health Act to strengthen vaccination enrolment requirements in child care (also known as early childhood education and care) to be implemented from 1 January 2018

### **Aim:**

- To clearly communicate that a child must be immunised or be on a catch up plan to enroll at preschool.
- To implement clear procedures for identifying, notifying and exclusion of children at risk of harm from infectious diseases.
- To ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff.



## Procedures:

### Immunisation Details

- Children are not able to enrol at preschool if **unvaccinated** unless they have documentation to state they are on a catch up.
- It is the ongoing responsibility of families to maintain their child's immunisation record. The NSW government requires all Early Childhood services to keep record of every child's immunisation. A photocopy will be taken of this document for the personal file.
- Under the NSW Public Health Act 2017, an immunisation record **must** be provided in order to enrol your child/remain enrolled as follows:
- An **Immunisation History Statement** showing your child's immunisations are up to date (if your child has a medical contraindication for a specific vaccine(s) a Medical Contraindication Form will also be required).

### Infection Control Procedures;

- Wear gloves at all times when assisting a child with soiled or wet their clothing,
- Cover any cuts, abrasions, dermatitis or open skin on hands with a water resistant dressing
- Effectively manage bodily fluid spills and accidents. Blood or bodily fluid spills will be isolated with barricades until the educator can remove the spill hygienically. The educator will: avoid direct contact with the spill; use personal protective equipment; contain the spill as far as possible using paper towel, disposing of it in a sealed plastic clinical waste bag; clean the spill using neutral detergent; dry or ventilate the area; notify the work cover authority if there has been exposure to bodily fluids that may present the risk of the transition of blood borne diseases
- Administer first aid to any educator who has blood or bodily fluids splash into their eyes or mouth by irrigating the eyes for 5-10 minutes and/or blow nose and spit out and rinse out the mouth.
- Store and dispose of soiled items appropriately as per toileting policies. Soiled items not belonging to an individual child or family that have been exposed to bodily fluids will be rinsed in water and bagged for home.
- Encourage children to cover their noses and mouths when sneezing or coughing and to wash and dry their hands afterwards. Model this behaviour.
- Use every precaution to minimise the risk of infection within the education and care service environment for themselves, the children and the families.
- Details of the child's immunisation will be kept on child's personal file and regularly checked and updated when necessary by reminding parents throughout the year.
- The Department of Health Directive 'Notification of Infectious Diseases under the Public Health Act 1991' mandates that notifiable diseases must be reported to the Public Health Unit. The Director must notify the Public Health Unit as soon as they are aware that a child at the preschool has contracted a vaccine preventable disease (confirmed by a medical practitioner) – this includes diphtheria, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), poliomyelitis, rubella (German measles) and tetanus. The Public Health Unit will investigate and provide advice about steps to take. See Attachment 2 for list of Disease Notification List current January
- The Public Health Unit website will be checked each year when this policy is reviewed to determine currency. <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/infectious/notification.asp>
- If any child at the preschool contracts an infectious disease, a notice will be displayed advising the parents of the illness, the signs, symptoms and incubation period.
- 'Staying Healthy in Child Care' fact sheets will be provided to keep families well informed at all



times as well as regular newsletter items and information displays (For the prevention and spread of disease please see both the Illness Policy and the Hygiene and Infection Control policy)

- A clearance from a medical practitioner will be required before returning (see Illness and Exclusion policy).
- An Illness Log Book is kept detailing all illness of children at the preschool, not only immunisable diseases to help determine patterns of cross infection and possible sources. The Illness log is kept in the office

**Immunisation History Statements** families can obtain one at any time by contacting Medicare:

- By telephone on **1800 653 809**
- By email on [acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au](mailto:acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au)
- Online at [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online)

In person at your local Medicare office, Centrelink office or Child Support Service Centre

**PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT:**

Penrith Office	PO Box 63, Penrith 2751 Ph: 02 4734 2022 Fax: 02 4734 3300 / 3444	Ph: 02 9845 5555 (Westmead Hospital) - ask for Public Health Officer on call
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*NB: this policy applies to children and adults.*

<b>Links to National Quality Framework Standards:</b>	
<b>Quality Area 2</b>	<b>Children's health and safety</b>
Standard 2.1	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
Standard 2..1.1	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.
Standard 2..1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
Standard 3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.
<b>Quality Area 6</b>	<b>Collaborative partnerships with families and communities</b>
Standard 6.1	Respectful relationships with families are developed and maintained and families are supported in their parenting role.
Standard 6.2	Collaborative partnerships enhance children's inclusion, learning and wellbeing.

**Source:**

ASCIA: Australian Society of Clinical Immunologists and Allergy

[www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au)

[http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/DOCS/STANDARD/PC\\_100973.html](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/DOCS/STANDARD/PC_100973.html)

Australian Immunisation Handbook (9<sup>th</sup> edition)

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf?content?handbok-quickguides-anaphylaxis>

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2009) *Belonging, Being, Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*. Canberra:DEEWR

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2011) *Education and*



*Care Services National Regulation*

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2009) *National Quality Standard for Early Education and Care and School Aged Children* Canberra:DEEWR  
National Health and Medical Research Council. (2005) *Staying healthy in Child Care* 4<sup>th</sup> ed Staying Health In Child Care. Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care (4<sup>th</sup> ed).

[http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/speced2/files/pages/chess/hsp/Pathways/Staying\\_healthy\\_in\\_child\\_c.pdf](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/speced2/files/pages/chess/hsp/Pathways/Staying_healthy_in_child_c.pdf)

NSW Children's Services Health and Safety Committee and Early Childhood Australia (NSW Branch)  
New South Wales Government Department of Health

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Immunisation/Programs/prog\\_schedule.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Immunisation/Programs/prog_schedule.asp)

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/infectious/notification.asp>

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

UNSW – (2004) *Health and Safety in Children's Services – Model Policies and Practices* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed

Policy Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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Next Review Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

