



Immunisations, Infectious Diseases and Prevention Policy

Covers

- Immunisations
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Intention

Nurturing Family Day Care Scheme takes the health and well-being of all children very seriously and in collaboration with all educators and families, reduces the risk of infectious diseases through immunisation, reducing exposure to other children and minimising the risk of germs through proactive hygiene practices.

Overview

This policy, and all policies and procedures that are associated with the Immunisations, Infectious Diseases and Prevention Policy, are implemented at all registered residences and approved venues by all educators, staff and visitors who are allied with the scheme.

This comprises of -

- Immunisations.
- Being proactive to reduce and prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- Managing infectious diseases effectively.

The approved provider will ensure -

- That educators and families are informed and educated about the importance of immunisations.
- Communication with all associated personnel of Nurturing Family Day Care Scheme remains professional and considerate of the sensitive situation that having an unwell child can create.
- That current immunisation status is obtained if an infectious disease occurs at a registered residence or approved venue, in order for the correct exclusion periods to be applied to all individuals applicable.
- That exclusion periods are enforced where required.
- The Public Health Unit is contacted for advice and are notified within 24 hours of an event and that the Serious Incident Procedure is followed where appropriate.



- Queensland and Federal Health Directive/s are followed as required.

Immunisation Procedure

The Immunisation program is one that is important for the health and wellbeing of all children and as such we work with the Australian government in promoting this message and following their lead in regard to children who are unimmunised. Nurturing Family Day Care Scheme does not require your child's immunisation history as the Australian government will prevent CCS from being issued if there is a child who falls behind the mandated schedule or who is unimmunised. Immunisation status is required on the online enrolment through Fully Booked.

All children at a registered residence or venue where certain infectious diseases are present will be asked for their immunisation record to continue education and care to determine if they are required to be excluded as per the recommended periods as stated in the public Health Act 2005 and listed in Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care (5th Edition) 2013.

Parents are able to access more information in regard to immunisations through contact with –

- Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809, on the MyGov app or Medicare Express Plus app, which holds the Immunisation history statement that includes -
 - All past vaccines on the AIR
 - When they occurred
 - When the next ones are due
 - Any overdue vaccines
- Immunise Australia Program, which lists the current immunisation schedule and can be access at
- <https://www.health.gov.au/childhood-immunisation/immunisation-schedule>
- Schedules can also be accessed at vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au

The approved provider will inform all parents and guardians at the time of enrolment, and upon new changes to legislation and law, that unimmunised children or children partially immunised will -

- Not receive any child care subsidies from the Australian government unless they have -
 - A medical exemption (medical contraindication or natural immunity certified by a general practitioner.
 - A Secretary's exemption.
- May be refused to be enrolled at a registered residence or approved venue if it is decided by the family day care educator directly associated with that address that they do not accept unimmunised or partially immunised children. In this situation –
 - A parent or guardian will be required before starting education and care at the registered residence or venue to provide an immunisation history statement.
 - Will be required, within 4 weeks of the request, to provide an immunisation history statement at regular intervals (as the child passes the 2, 4, 6, 12, 18 months and 4 years vaccination milestones) to ensure that they remain up to date with the immunisation schedule.



- Be required to pay for absences that occur during exclusion periods for non-immunised children attending education and care at a registered residence or venue that has a case of a reported infectious disease.

Educators, and their families, are encouraged by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to ensure that their immunisation status is up to date to protect themselves. Educators should consider ensuring that they are immunised in the case of pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis A, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), varicella (chickenpox), and influenza (required annually). Exclusion of educators and the members of their family may be enforced depending on their immunisation status.

Infectious Disease and its Prevention Procedure

Nurturing Family Day Care Scheme understands that through effective communication and collaboration with educators and families a united front line can be created against infectious disease. When, unfortunately, a situation arises where there is a case of infectious disease in the education and care setting, this partnership can minimise the spread and risk to all children.

The approved provider, educators, and families will assist in the prevention of infectious diseases by –

- Being up to date and sharing information on immunisations and the importance of remaining fully immunised for the health and well-being of all.
- Ensuring that the Health and Hygiene Policy is followed at all times.
- Keeping all areas of the registered residence or approved venue, its furniture, materials, and equipment (resources, toys, utensils, etc.) safe clean and in good condition.
- Minimising the spread of infectious diseases by being proactive when a child is displaying symptoms or signs of illness and remaining at home and away from the education and care setting until the child is well. Certain symptoms such as temperatures, vomiting, diarrhea require 24-hour exclusion time (from the last occurrence) periods before children can return to education and care in case of a potential serious illness.
- Communicating professionally with all parties when a child becomes ill, whether at their home or at the registered residence or approved venue, understanding that a child who is not 100% well is best recovering at home.
- Acknowledging that only a general practitioner can declare that a child's signs or symptoms are safe to be in an education and care setting and that a medical clearance may be required by an educator for the child to return to the registered residence or venue to ensure that an infectious disease is not spread to other children.
- Understanding why children are at times excluded from the registered residence and adhering to the periods advised by Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care (5th Edition) 2013.
- Contacting the Public Health Unit (by the approved provider) for more information and advice for each specific case of an infectious disease <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/sunshinecoast/html/phu-cdc> and will notify of an infectious disease within 24 hours when required. Information for Schools, Education



and Care Services and Child Care Services Contagious conditions - Public Health Act 2005, Chapter 5
Part 2 https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/374646/pha-cont-cond.pdf

Sunshine Coast	60 Wises Road, Buderim Qld 4556 PO Box 577, Maroochydore Qld 4558 Email: SCPHU@health.qld.gov.au	(07) 5409 6600	(07) 5443 5488	Fax: (07) 5409 6635
Queensland	Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Branch	07 3328 9724 07 3328 9728		
Metro North (Brisbane North)	Bryden Street, Windsor Qld 4030 Locked Bag 2, Stafford DC Qld 4053	(07) 3624 1111	(07) 3624 1159	

In the event that an infectious disease occurs at a registered residence or approved venue, all associated personnel will –

- Not bring a child to a registered residence or venue that is not well enough to attend.
- If at a registered residence or venue, will move the child away from other children ensuring they are treated with respect and comforted.
- Contact the parent/s or guardian/s, or if not available the emergency contact according to the child's records, informing them that they or an authorised to collect individual is required to collect the child immediately.
- All relevant bedding, clothing, and material will be taken with the child or laundered by the educator and placed in direct sunlight to effectively clean from germs.
- All toys and resources that were in contact with the child will be removed immediately and cleaned and disinfected effectively.
- All areas (toilets, sleep room, etc.) of the registered residence or venue will be cleaned and disinfected effectively.
- Inform all families that attend the registered residence or approved venue of the event. A notice to be displayed, as well as communication about the infectious disease. At no time will the confidentiality of the child or their family be broken.
- The notice will display information about the infectious disease, its signs and symptoms and the relevant exclusion periods. It will not list any information about the child or family with the infectious disease.
- The approved provider will notify all families and request, if needed according to the type of infectious disease, the immunisation status (a statement from the Australian Immunisation Register) of each child and educator at the registered residence or venue. Children who have medical conditions that may be at additional risk will be assessed on an individual basis in consultation with the parent/s or guardian/s, their general practitioner, and the public health unit.



- The approved provider will follow all requirements as listed by the Queensland Health Department's Information for Schools, Education and Care Services and Child Care Services Contagious conditions - Public Health Act 2005, Chapter 5 Part 2
https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/374646/pha-cont-cond.pdf
- Require upon the return of the child or educator with the infectious disease, a medical clearance from a general practitioner stating that they are able to be in an education and care setting again.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011 (Updated October 2023)

- Section 3, Objectives and guiding principles.
- Section 167, Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards.
- Section 172, Offence to fail to display prescribed information
- Section 174, Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority.
- Reg 4, Definitions.
- Reg 12, Meaning of a Serious Incident
- Reg 77, Health, hygiene and safe food practices
- Reg 85, Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures.
- Reg 86, Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness.
- Reg 87, Incident, injury, trauma and illness record.
- Reg 88, Infectious diseases.
- Reg 106, Laundry and hygiene facilities.
- Reg 109, Toilet and hygiene facilities.
- Reg 161, Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
- Reg 162, Health information to be kept in enrolment record
- Reg 168, Education and care services must have policies and procedures.
- Reg 173, Prescribed information to be displayed
- Reg 177, Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by approved provider.
- Reg 178, Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by family day care educator.
- Reg 183, Storage of records and other documents

National Quality Standard (Updated February 2018)

- 2.1, Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
- 2.1.2, Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
- 2.2, Each child is protected.
- 2.2.1, At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
- 2.2.2, Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.
- 3.1.2, Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained.
- 6.1, Respectful relationships with families are developed and maintained and families are supported in their parenting role
- 6.2, Collaborative partnerships enhance children's inclusion, learning and wellbeing.
- 7.1, Governance supports the operation of a quality service.
- 7.1.2, Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.



Early Years Learning Framework

Australian Government, Department of Human Services

Australian Immunisation Register

Caring for Children - Birth to 5 years (Food, Nutrition and Learning Experiences) 5th Edition, 2014

Immunise Australia Program

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care (5th Edition) 2013

QLD Health

Vaccidate

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually.

The review will be conducted by:

- Approved Provider
- Employees
- Educators
- Families
- Interested Parties

Created: May 2017

Reviewed: October 2017

March 2018

August 2018

August 2019

May 2020

May 2021

May 2022

May 2023

May 2024

Next review: May 2025