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# Immunisation Policy

Reviewed May 2019

<b>Legislation:</b>	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Education and Care Services National Law 2011 Staying Healthy - Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (5th edition, 2012) Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2001 Public Health Act 2011
<b>Reference:</b>	National Quality Framework Resource Kit, 2011 <a href="http://www.myvaccination.com.au">www.myvaccination.com.au</a> Staying Healthy - Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (5th edition, 2012) Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2001 Public Health Act 2011 Immunisation Tool Kit <a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au">www.health.nsw.gov.au</a>

## Introduction

By immunising your child, you are protecting them and the broader community, especially those who are too young to be immunised or those that are not able to be immunised for medical reasons. The more people that immunise their children, the more we can control serious preventable diseases.

Bangalow Community Children's Centre is committed to preventing the spread of vaccine preventable diseases through monitoring and recording children's immunisation history as well as embedding hygiene practices such as hand washing, effective cleaning procedures and implementing exclusion periods for infectious diseases.

We respect parents right not to immunise their children and while vaccination is not compulsory, under current legislation (Public Health Act 2010) we are not able to enrol unimmunised children in our service.

Conscientious objectors will no longer be able to enrol their children at Bangalow Community Children's Centre and will need to make alternative arrangements.

In an effort to improve childhood immunisation rates, the NSW Parliament passed the Public Health Amendment (Review) Bill 2017 that amended the Public Health Act 2010 to strengthen immunisation enrolment requirements in early childhood services. Under the Public Health Act 2010 from 1 January 2018 the Department of Health regulation state that before enrolling a child parents must provide a copy of one or more of the following documents to enrol in a child care centre:

- An AIR Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations or
- An AIR Immunisation History Form on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule (temporary for 6 months only) or
- No other form of documentation is acceptable (i.e. the Interim Vaccination Objection Form or Blue Book).

## Goals

- To minimise risks, complications and the spread of vaccine preventable diseases
- To ensure procedures are in place to respond promptly should an outbreak occur within the service

## Immunisation Policy - page 2 of 2

### **Practices**

- Families will provide the Service with a copy of one or more of the following documents:
  - An AIR Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations; or
  - An AIR Immunisation History Form on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule.
- Families' are responsible to ensure that their child's immunisation is up to date.
- The immunisation register and immunisation forms must be stored in a secure location and retained for a period of three years from the date on which each enrolled child ceases to attend the service, and be produced for inspection by the PHU Officer as requested i.e. during an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease.
- All records will be kept according to the Services Confidentiality and Privacy policy.
- Under the NSW Public Health Act 2010, the Service will maintain an immunisation register that records the immunisation status and forms held for all enrolled children. This information is used by the PHU to manage outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.
- The services will routinely review their early childhood immunisation register and follow up with the parents/guardians of children who have not provided an updated immunisation form after each immunisation age milestone.
- Wellbeing Management Plans will be put in place for unimmunised children who were currently enrolled before 1 January 2018. These plans will be created in partnership with the families and reflective of the services' immunisation policy.
- If the Service is notified that a vaccine preventable disease may be present at the Service, notification signs are posted around the Centre and emails sent to alert families.
- Information about immunisation and infectious diseases is available at the centre and can be translated into different languages if required.
- All unimmunised children will be excluded if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease.
- Unimmunised children will be excluded for the incubation period as per Staying Healthy 5th Edition (2012) or as advised by Public Health Unit.
- Parents are responsible for payment of fees while their child is excluded under all circumstances.
- Aboriginal and Torres Islander children have a different immunisation schedule which is available on request/or if needed.
- The Public Health Unit at Lismore, 0266 207585, is to be advised as soon as the Service is aware that a child has contracted a vaccine-preventable disease. The Medical Officer of Health may direct that unimmunised contacts be excluded from the Service for the duration of the outbreak. Any such directive must be complied with by all staff members, children, families and visitors.
- Staff are encouraged to discuss vaccinations with their own doctor and make the best decision for themselves.

### **National Regulations**

**88** Infectious diseases

### **NQF**

**2.1.1** Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for.

### **Related Policies**

Infectious Disease and Exclusion Policy

### **Evaluation and Review**

This policy will be reviewed based on regulatory requirements or earlier if the need arises.

Family and staff feedback will be considered in the review process. Changes in legislation, regulations, NQF and standards will be considered.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to families and staff.

## **Immunisation Schedule National Immunisation Program Schedule (VALID FROM 1 JULY 2007)**

### **Birth**

Hepatitis B (hepB)

### **2 months**

Hepatitis B (hepB)

Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (acellular pertussis) (DTPa)

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

Polio (inactivated poliomyelitis IPV)

Pneumococcal conjugate (7vPCV)

Rotavirus

### **4 months**

Hepatitis B (hepB)

Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (acellular pertussis) (DTPa)

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

Polio (inactivated poliomyelitis IPV)

Pneumococcal conjugate (7vPCV)

Rotavirus

### **6 months**

Hepatitis B (hepB)

Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (acellular pertussis) (DTPa)

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

Polio (inactivated poliomyelitis) (IPV)

Pneumococcal conjugate (7vPCV) [

Rotavirus [See footnote j]

### **12 months**

Hepatitis B (hepB)

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) [See footnote d]

Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)

Meningococcal C (MenCCV)

### **12-24 months**

Hepatitis A (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in high risk areas)

### **18 months**

Chickenpox (varicella) (VZV)

### **18-24 months**

Pneumococcal polysaccharide (23vPPV) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in high risk areas)

Hepatitis A (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in high risk areas)

### **4 years**

Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (acellular pertussis) (DTPa)

Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)

Polio (inactivated poliomyelitis) (IPV)

### **10-13 years**

Hepatitis B [See footnote h]

Chickenpox (varicella) (VZV)

### **12-13 years**

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

### **15-17 years**

Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (acellular pertussis) (dTPa)

### **15-49 years**

Influenza (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people medically at-risk)

Pneumococcal polysaccharide (23vPPV) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people medically at-risk)

### **50 years and over**

Influenza (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)

Pneumococcal polysaccharide (23vPPV) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)

### **65 years and over**

Influenza (flu)

Pneumococcal polysaccharide (23vPPV)

## Bangalow Community Children's Centre

The **Immunisation Policy** has been read, understood and reviewed by:

[illegible]

# Bangalow Community Children's Centre

# Comments on Immunisation Policy

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