



2.02 IMMUNISATION

Purpose Statement

On 28 February 2018, the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation was amended to make it that an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) is now the only form of documentation accepted for the purpose of enrolling in a Family Day Care (FDC) service.

This statement must show that the child being enrolled is:

- Up to date with vaccinations for their age OR
- Up to date with a vaccine catch up schedule OR
- Has a medical condition preventing them from being fully vaccinated.

It is important that children are fully vaccinated before they start FDC to:

- Help protect them from diseases that can be prevented by vaccination
- Help protect others who can not be vaccinated for medical reasons from being exposed to these diseases.

Scope

This policy applies to employees, management, educators, contractors, children, families and visitor's of the educator's home.

Policy Statement

WINDERMERE'S FDC IS COMMITTED TO PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES THROUGH MONITORING THE IMMUNISATION STATUS OF CHILDREN AND COMPLYING WITH RECOMMENDED EXCLUSION GUIDELINES AND TIMEFRAMES.

Procedures

Parent/Guardian Obligations

1. On enrolling a child into FDC, parents/guardians are required to provide the Coordination Unit with their child's most recent Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). This statement is evidence of the child's current immunisation status.
2. A copy of your child's Immunisation History Statement can be accessed by:
 - a. Logging in to your **myGov account**
 - b. Calling the AIR on 1800 653 809, or
 - c. Visiting a Medicare or Centrelink office
3. Enrolment will not be confirmed until a current Immunisation History Statement from the AIR is provided to the service.

Family Day Care Service Obligations

1. Where required, provide parents with information about:



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- a. Requirements of the law for enrolment
 - b. Locating and accessing immunisation services
 - c. Obtaining immunisation documents required for enrolment (by providing parents/guardians with a copy of this procedure).
2. Maintain the privacy of all enrolled children by not sharing information regarding their immunisation status with other enrolled families/children. This information can only be provided in accordance with applicable privacy laws.
3. To review the AIR Immunisation Statement of all children during the enrolment process, making sure that a Statement that reads the child is '*not up to date*' is returned to the parent/guardian for follow up. A child who is '*not up to date*' with his/her immunisations, must NOT be enrolled until the acceptable documentation is provided.
4. If a family presents to enrol their child without the relevant documentation (i.e. Statement from the AIR) and is experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage, consult with them to determine if they qualify for the 16 week grace period. If so, the child can commence at the service and the acceptable documentation be submitted within 16 weeks. *See below for more information regarding the 16 week grace period.*
5. Where a family advises that their child was immunised overseas, refer them to a doctor or an immunisation nurse to review the child's immunisation history for compliance with the Australian immunisation schedule. The child can NOT be enrolled until the AIR is informed of the child's immunisation history and a Statement is created detailing follow up requirements. This might include a vaccine catch-up schedule.
6. Where a parent/guardian advises that they have chosen not to vaccinate their child due to their beliefs, they must be informed that, under Victorian law, the service is NOT allowed to enrol the child without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical exemption).

What is considered a 'medical exemption'

1. Some children may be exempt from the requirement to be fully vaccinated on medical grounds. Valid medical reasons include:
 - a. an anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of a particular vaccine, or
 - b. an anaphylactic reaction to any vaccine component
 - c. has a disease which lowers immunity (such as leukaemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS, SCID), or
 - d. is having treatment which lowers immunity (such as chemotherapy).
2. If a child has a valid medical reason they cannot be vaccinated, a GP needs to complete and sign a *Medicare Immunisation Exemption Medical Contraindication Form* and send it to the AIR.
3. The parent/guardian then needs to obtain an updated Statement from the AIR that indicates the child is up-to-date with all the vaccines that they can have, and listed the vaccines that they cannot have due to a medical contraindication. This statement then needs to be provided to the Co-ordination Unit to confirm enrolment.



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16 Week Grace Period

1. A 16 week grace period can be entered into if a child/family, who has not provided acceptable immunisation status documentation, answers 'yes' to one or more of the questions below:
 - a. Is your child Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
 - b. Do you or your child hold a health care card?
 - c. Do you hold a pensioner concession card?
 - d. Do you hold a veterans affairs Gold or White card?
 - e. Is your child from a multiple birth of triplets or more?
 - f. Are you and your child currently evacuated from your home due to an emergency such as a flood or bushfire?
 - g. Is your child in the care of an adult who is not the child's parent due to an emergency or exceptional circumstances such as parental illness or incapacity?
 - h. Did you arrive in Australia as a refugee or asylum seeker?
 - i. Is child protection involved with your child or have they been in the past?
 - j. Has your family received support through Family Services?
 - k. Are you living in crisis or emergency accommodation or are you being supported by a housing agency or a family violence service?

NOTE: A Grace Period Eligibility Assessment form is available to ascertain eligibility. This form is for use by the service, in conversation with the parent. It is not to be handed to parents for completion on their own.

2. The Coordination Unit will support families in obtaining an Immunisation History Statement from the AIR within 16 weeks of the date the child first attends the service.
3. If acceptable immunisation documentation has not been provided by the end of the 16 week grace period, the Coordination Unit will provide families with ongoing support and information to bring their child's immunisations up to date.

Managing a Disease Outbreak

1. Family Day Care services have a responsibility to help manage the spread of infectious diseases if a suspected case of an infectious disease arises.
2. Immediate contact must be made with the Department of Health and Human Services on 1300 651 160, should a child or adult attending a FDC residence or venue, be suspected of having an infectious disease.

NOTE: For a list of infectious diseases and exclusion requirements, please refer to poster attached.



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Relevant Standards/Legislation

- National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care Services including:
 - Education and Care Services National Law 2011
 - Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations (2009)
- 'No Jab, No Play' legislation

Related Policies & Links

- *Occupational Health and Safety* procedure
- *Managing Medical Conditions* procedure
- *Enrolment* procedure