



Immunisation and Exclusions Policy

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them in the community. Immunisation not only protects individuals, but also others in the community, by reducing the spread of disease.

A number of immunisations are required in the first few years of a child's life to protect them against the most serious infections of childhood. The immune system in young children does not work as well as the immune system in older children and adults because it is still immature. Therefore, more doses of vaccine are often needed.

Another reason why children get many immunisations is that new vaccines against serious infections continue to be developed. However, the number of injections is also being reduced by the use of combination vaccines, where several vaccines are combined into one injection.

While the responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious diseases is primarily with individuals, families and public health authorities, education and care services operated by DECD also have an important role to play.

The department values the importance of vaccinating children to:

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

Enrolments

As part of the enrolment process, parents are requested to make immunisation records available for sighting. The enrolling staff person will initial the enrolment form to confirm that the record has been sighted. Once a child has completed the recommended vaccinations from the childhood schedule (at 3 ½ - 4 years) no additional immunisation records are required to be sighted.

Australian Immunisation Childhood Register (ACIR) History Statement

Upon enrolment at Happy Valley Kindergarten, families must provide a copy of the most up-to-date schedule of immunisations for their child (Australian Immunisation Childhood Register (ACIR) History Statement) These details can be accessed by families via:

- Visiting www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online
- Visiting a Medicare service centre
- Phoning 1800 653 809
- Emailing acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au
- Visiting www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online

Note: A child's immunisation status is current when the date of 'next due immunisation(s)' (located at the bottom of the statement) is in the future or blank.

South Australian Child Health and Development Record (known as the 'Blue Book')

Parents are encouraged to take their child's Blue Book each time the child is immunised. The doctor or nurse administering the vaccine is required to complete each record entry in section 2 of the book.



A record of each vaccination is to be provided to a service for sighting within 2 weeks of the vaccination being administered or when next attending the service (whichever occurs first).

Exempt from Vaccinations

Children who have a medical reason for not being vaccinated are required to have a general practitioner complete an exemption form. A completed form should be sighted by the service. ***These children are to be recorded as non-immunised.***

Homeopathic Immunisation

Homeopathic immunisation is not recognised as a valid vaccination option. ***Children receiving homeopathic immunisation will be recorded as non-immunised.***

Recording Immunisation Status (Staff Only)

Preschool or occasional care services will record the immunisation status in the Early Years System (EYS). The status will be recorded in the 'Child Details screen', 'Health tab', 'Scheduled Immunisations Received' as either:

- Immunisation received
- Not Immunised
- Information not supplied

Where an immunisation record is not provided or where the record is outdated when sighted, then these children will be recorded as non-immunised.

Exclusion requirements

If there is an occurrence of an infectious vaccine preventable disease (VPD) covered by the Childhood Immunisation Program at Happy Valley Kindergarten, then a child who is recorded as non-immunised is to be excluded in accordance with the SA Health exclusion period guidelines.