



Immunisation Policy

When groups of children are together, illness and disease can spread rapidly. Immunisable diseases such as measles and whooping cough can have serious health consequences for children, especially young children. Staff members who work in a childcare setting are also at risk of certain infectious illnesses.

Following changes to the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (the Act), from 7 August 2020, children will not be able to enrol at or attend Port Lincoln Children's Centre unless their immunisations requirements are met.

The Act states:

- an early childhood service must not enrol a child if all immunisation requirements are not met;
- a child cannot attend or continue to attend an early childhood service if all immunisation requirements are not met;
- early childhood services must keep a current copy of an approved immunisation record for each child enrolled in, or attending that service, and
- approved immunisation records must be supplied by parents/guardians to the early childhood service at specified times.

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides funded vaccines at specific ages to babies, toddlers, adolescents and adults eligible for a Medicare card. Vaccines must be administered on or close to the specific schedule points for children to be considered up to date with their immunisations; usually a few days before or a few weeks after is acceptable. Vaccines that are administered under the NIP are recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

Families will need to provide Port Lincoln Children's Centre with an approved immunisation record from AIR. This is the Immunisation History Statement available through Medicare. It will show:

- The child's name;
- Date of birth;
- The date the statement was downloaded and
- Immunisation status.

In very rare circumstances, a certificate from the Chief Public Health Officer or a document approved by the Chief Public Health Officer may be accepted.

Letters from a GP, an overseas immunisation record or the South Australian Child Health and Development Record (blue book), an immunisation summary from PLAHS or other medical clinic are **NOT** considered immunisation records and will not be accepted.

The parent or legal guardian must supply the early childhood service with the approved updated immunisation records for their child:

- at the time of the child's enrolment;
- after the child turns 7 months of age but before the child turns 9 months of age;
- after the child turns 13 months of age but before the child turns 15 months of age;
- after the child turns 19 months of age but before the child turns 21 months of age;
- after the child turns 4 years and 2 months of age but before the child turns 4 years and 8 months of age.

The legislation approves the following exemptions:

- the child has a medical contraindication to a vaccine, such as anaphylaxis;
- the child has natural immunity to a particular disease;
- the child is part of an approved vaccine study;
- the vaccine is temporarily unavailable;
- the child is vaccinated overseas*, or
- the Secretary has determined that the child meets the immunisation requirements.

These exemptions are applied through the Commonwealth Medicare system . They are usually applied by the child’s medical practitioner and reflected on the child’s immunisation history statement.

Port Lincoln Children’s Centre will confidentially store a child’s immunisation record during the time the child is enrolled at or attends the centre. On request the records must be given to the Chief Public Health Officer during an outbreak (or risk of an outbreak) of a vaccine preventable disease. In this situation the Chief Public Officer may request the

- names and date of birth of children enrolled, or children who routinely attend the service;
- Immunisation records relating to each child;
- parent or carer contact details for each child.

Education and Care Services National Regulations	National Quality Standard	Other Policies	Other
Regulation 88: Infectious Diseases	QA 2 Health and Safety 2.1.2 Health practices and procedures QA Governance 7.1.2 Management systems		South Australian public Health 2011 Part 12A Immunisation and Early Childhood Services. www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/immunisation/immunisation+programs/early+childhood+services+and+immunisation+requirements

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