

No Jab, No Play Policy

Quality Area 2

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Woodridge Pre-school in September 2018. It will be reviewed annually.

REVIEW DATE: June 2019

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Woodridge Pre-school believes

- that the benefits of immunisation are overwhelming, preventing death and disability, particularly amongst young children, and protecting not only the individual but others in the community who cannot be vaccinated.
- That the Public health risks of failing to vaccinate are so great, which is why the Government is committed to implementing the 'No Jab, No Play' law to boost immunisation rates in the community.
- The 'No Jab, No Play' law aims to improve vaccination rates and reduce the prevalence and spread of disease.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the children attending the programs and activities of Woodridge Pre-school.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

Background Vaccination is one of the most effective interventions to prevent disease worldwide. Modern vaccines provide high levels of protection against an increasing number of diseases which, in some cases, can be fatal. Worldwide, it is estimated that immunisation programs prevent approximately 2.5 million deaths each year. The current immunisation rate in Victoria for children under 5 years of age is around 92 per cent; however, immunisation coverage of 95 per cent is necessary to halt the spread of particularly virulent diseases such as measles.

Immunisation not only protects those people who have been vaccinated, it also protects those in our community who may be unable to receive vaccines themselves, by reducing the prevalence and spread of disease.

Legislation and Standards

- [The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) 10th Edition (updated June 2015), 2015, Department of Health, Australian Government.
- [Immunisation schedule Victoria](#) – April 2017, Department of Health & Human Services, Victorian Government.
- [National Immunisation Program Schedule](#) (from 20 April, 2015), 2013, Department of Health, Australian Government.
- [Vaccine side effects](#), March 2017, Department of Health & Human Services, Victorian Government
- [Pre-immunisation checklist](#) – what to tell your doctor or nurse before immunisation, Department of Health & Human Services, Victorian Government

4. PROCEDURES

Immunisations required for children at pre-school

Under the new 'No Jab, No Play' legislation, before Woodridge Pre-school can confirm the enrolment of a child, the parent/carer must provide an immunisation status certificate that shows their child:

- is up to date with vaccinations for their age OR
- is on a recognised vaccine catch-up schedule OR
- has a medical condition preventing them from being fully vaccinated.

['Conscientious objection'](#) is not an exemption under the 'No Jab No Play' legislation.

Immunisation History Statement

An Immunisation History Statement contains details of vaccines included in the National Immunisation Program (NIP). Immunisation History Statements are available from both the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and the Human Papillomavirus Register (HPV Register). An AIR Statement can be obtained in the following ways:

- Online - through [MyGov](#) once an account has been created
- [Medicare Express Plus App](#) - once a [MyGov](#) account has been created
- Over the counter - at a [Medicare Service Centre](#)
- Phone – call AIR on 1800 653 809

In exceptional circumstances, for example if parents need to place their child into care unexpectedly or quickly, an immunisation status certificate can be obtained from an immunisation provider such as a GP or local council immunisation service. To be considered acceptable as an Immunisation Status Certificate for the purposes of enrolment at an early childhood education and care service the document/s need to contain all the details set out in the [immunisation status certificate checklist](#).

Immunisation Services

Local council immunisation nurses, GPs and health clinics can provide immunisation services. The [Better Health Channel website](#) has a [health service locator](#) that can assist Victorians to find their nearest immunisation provider.

Recognised vaccine catch-up program

If a child's vaccinations are not up-to-date the parents/carers should consult their doctor or immunisation nurse about bringing the child's vaccinations up to date. If a child has missed the last due vaccine their doctor or immunisation nurse needs to give the overdue vaccine and inform the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). The parent/carer then needs to request an updated Immunisation History Statement. If a child has missed all or several vaccines their doctor or immunisation nurse needs to develop an approved vaccination catch-up schedule. The child has to start the catch-up schedule and be on track with their vaccinations according to that schedule.

Vulnerable and disadvantaged children

Vulnerable and disadvantaged children will be eligible to enrol in a service under a grace period, without having provided proof of up to date immunisation.

Families who meet any of the following criteria are eligible for the grace period:

- Evacuated children
 - Children evacuated following emergency (such as flood or fire)
- Children in emergency care
 - Children in emergency care (for example, emergency foster care) under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005
- Children in the care of an adult who is not their parent

- Children in the care of an adult who is not the child's parent due to exceptional circumstances such as illness or incapacity
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Children
- Children identified by their parents as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Other children experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage
- Children who hold or whose parents hold a health care card, pension concession card, Veterans Affairs Gold or White card
- Children from a multiple birth of triplets or more
- Children who are refugees or asylum seekers
- Children known to child protection
- Children who are on or who have been on a Child Protection Order
- Children in or who been in foster care or out-of-home care
- Children who have a report made about them under the *Children Youth and Families Act 2005*
- Families that have received support through Family Services including ChildFIRST; Services Connect; a community-based child and family service; or an integrated family service.

The grace period is for 16 weeks commencing from the date of that child's first attendance at Woodridge Pre-school. In this time, Woodridge Pre-school must take reasonable steps to obtain the required immunisation documentation. The parents/carers should endeavour to have their child vaccinated if required, and /or obtain the necessary documentation and provide it to the service. Children who were vaccinated overseas must have their vaccine records assessed and be offered vaccination as required. Record overseas vaccines to AIR by submitting the [AIR Immunisation History form](#). The AIR updates the child's records and the parents can request from AIR an Immunisation History Statement that indicates the due date for future vaccinations if required.

Homeopathic immunisation

'Homeopathic immunisation' is not a recognised form of immunisation. For more information view the [Homeopathy and Vaccination fact sheet produced by the National Centre for Immunisation Research](#). If parents/carers have questions or concerns about immunisation or particular vaccines, they should seek answers from a qualified source, such as a GP or immunisation nurse. The Better Health Channel also provides quality-assured information online.

Enrolment confirmation

Having an application accepted or being registered on a waiting list for a place at Woodridge is not a confirmed enrolment. Confirmation of enrolment can be given only once the parent/guardian has provided acceptable documentation to the service that shows that the child:

- is up to date with their immunisations (specifically, that no vaccines are overdue two months prior to the first day of attending; see **key dates work form**)
- has commenced a recognised catch-up schedule and that the next due vaccine/s on the catch-up schedule are not overdue two months prior to the first day of attending; see **key dates work form**)
- has a medical condition that prevents them from being fully immunised for their age
- is eligible to enrol under the 16 week grace period while the service works with the family to obtain the necessary immunisations/documentation.

SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- The Better Health Channel website: betterhealth.vic.gov.au has a health service locator that can assist Victorians to find their nearest Immunisation provider

- Commonwealth Department of Human Services website provides an Immunisation Medical Exemption form <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/sites/default/files/im011-1609en-f.pdf>
- [VaxOnTime](#) - Download the app, available for Apple, Android and Windows smart phones. With the app, you can receive reminder notifications leading up to when your child is due for their vaccinations, search for a local immunisation provider, call and make an appointment for vaccinations or find out when immunisation sessions are being run by your local council, and add an appointment to your device's calendar.
- [Victoria State Government Health and Human Services](#) – all related information
- An AIR Statement can be obtained in the following ways:
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ATTACHMENTS: Nil