



# Marton Activity Centre

## MAC Policy

### IMMUNISATION

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*When groups of children are together, illness and disease can spread rapidly. Preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough can have serious health consequences for children, and especially young children. Staff members who work in a childcare setting are also at increased risk of contracting certain infectious illnesses, due to the close proximity of working with children. Immunisation is therefore an important health measure and an effective way of protecting children and adults from harmful diseases by reducing the spread of disease.*

*(Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, 2020)*

### POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to manage and prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and diseases. Marton Activity Centre has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families, and educators are protected from infectious diseases whilst at the Service.

Along with maintaining a clean and hygienic environment, this also includes notifying families and educators when an excludable illness or disease is present in the Service, maintaining a record of children's and educators' immunisation status, complying with relevant health department exclusion guidelines, and increasing educators' awareness of cross-infection.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to the children, families, staff, management and visitors of Marton Activity Centre.

## PROCEDURE

Immunisation is a reliable way to prevent many childhood diseases. Immunisation works by giving the person a vaccine (weakened or killed disease-causing bacteria or virus), against a particular disease. This makes the person's immune system respond in a similar way to how it would respond if they actually had the disease, but with less severe, or possibly no symptoms. The vaccine therefore leads to the creation of antibodies that provide future protection if the person comes into contact with the disease.

Immunisation also protects other people who are not immunised, such as children who are too young to be immunised, or people whose immune systems did not respond to the vaccine. This is because the more people who are immunised against a disease, the lower the chance that a person will ever come into contact with someone who has the disease. The chance of an infection spreading in a community therefore decreases if a large proportion of people are immunised, because the immune people will not become infected and can protect the vulnerable people; this is known as 'herd immunity'.

When enrolling a child in Marton Activity Centre, parents will be asked to provide an Immunisation History Statement. Should a child not be fully immunised according to the National Immunisation Program Schedule, they will not be prevented from enrolling.

Children without proof of recommended immunisation for their age will be excluded from attending the service during an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease.

For a child to be eligible for Child Care Subsidy and other family payments, immunisation must be in accordance with the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule.

### MANAGEMENT / NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- Request families to provide an AIR Immunisation History Statement or an AIR Immunisation History Form (for a child on an approved catch-up-schedule) prior to enrolment
- Record in the immunisation register, children as 'unimmunised' if an AIR is not provided
- Advise parents and families about the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#)
- Display wall charts about immunisation in each room.
- Review children's immunisation regularly, updating the child's records kept at the service, and sending reminder letters and emails to families as required.
- Ensure that evidence is provided for each child prior to enrolment that confirms the child is fully immunised for their age or has a medical reason not be immunised.
- Develop a staff immunisation record that documents each staff member's previous infection or immunisation.

- Require all new and current staff to complete the staff immunisation record.
- Update staff immunisation records as staff become vaccinated.
- Provide staff with information about vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff to be vaccinated.
- Document advice given to educators and other staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests.
- Notify families when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs.
- Exclude any child who is not immunised from the Service if and when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs to protect that child and to prevent further spread of infection. In the instance of the child being immunised but the immunisation record has not been sighted by the Service, the child is to be considered as not being immunised.
- Advise any staff members who fall pregnant to visit their GP immediately and have a test for Cytomegalovirus (CMV) to check their immunity. Any pregnant staff member who is at a heightened risk will not change nappies and will double glove when coming into contact with any body fluids, including saliva.
- Notify the Public Health Unit of any outbreak of vaccine preventable diseases (1300 066 055)
- Advise parents of the National Immunisation Program (NIP)

#### **FAMILIES WILL BE REQUESTED TO:**

Provide the Service with a copy of one or more of the following documents:

- An Australian Immunisation Register (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; or
- An AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP
- Provide the service with an updated copy of their child's current immunisation record every 6 months, or when the next scheduled immunisation has been completed.
- Ensure they provide the Service with the Medicare immunisation record which can be downloaded through the myGov website. Please note that the 'blue book' is no longer an acceptable form of evidence.
- Support their child's exclusion from the Service if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at Marton Activity Centre or if they come into contact with a person with a vaccine preventable disease, even if there is no outbreak at the Service or Primary School.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

<b>Quality Area 2: Children's Health &amp; Safety</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.</b>
<b>2.1.2</b>	<b>Health practices and procedures</b>	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Each child is respected</b>
<b>2.2.2</b>	<b>Incident and emergency management</b>	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practice and implemented.

### EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS AND NATIONAL LAW

<b>Education and Care Services National Regulations and National law NSW</b>		
<b>Reg</b>	<b>77</b>	Health, hygiene and safe food practices.
<b>Reg</b>	<b>88</b>	Infectious Diseases
<b>Reg</b>	<b>90</b>	Medical Conditions Policy
<b>Reg</b>	<b>162</b>	Health information to be kept in enrolment record.

### SOURCE

AIR General Enquiries line 1800 653 809
Australia Childhood Immunisation Register
Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (2014)
Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics (2016)
Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations (2017)
Revised National Quality Standards.

### SERVICE POLICIES/ DOCUMENTATION

<b>Policies</b>	<b>Documents</b>
Enrolment, Re enrolment & orientation	Australian Children's Education & Care Authority
Family Communication	My Time, Our Place
Incident, illness, accident and trauma	ECA Code of Ethics
Record Keeping and Retention	Revised National Quality Standards
Sick Children	
Dealing with Infectious Diseases	
Health and Safety (Children's)	
Work Health and safety	