

DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES Regulation 168 (2) (c) Version 1.15

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre strongly promotes childhood and adult immunisation. The South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (the Act) states children will not be able to enrol in or attend early childhood services unless all immunisation requirements are met. Parents must supply the Centre with an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register no earlier than one month prior to enrolment. Updates to immunisations need to be provided at the following times:

- After the child turns 7 months but before the child turns 9 months
- After the child turns 13 months but before the child turns 15 months
- After the child turns 19 months but before the child turns 21 months
- After the child turns 4 years 2 months but before the child turns 4 years 8 months

Failure to do so will mean the child will be **EXCLUDED** from attending our Centre.

The only two processes that enable exemption from meeting immunisation requirements are:

- The Commonwealth Government's Legislation, *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999* referred to as *No Jab, No Play*
- The South Australian *Public Health Act 2011* referred to as *No Jab No Play*

Approved NO JAB NO PLAY exemptions:

- The child has a medical contraindication to a vaccine, such as anaphylaxis
- The child has a natural immunity to a particular disease
- The child is part of an approved vaccine study
- The child is vaccinated overseas
- The Secretary of the Commonwealth Government's Department of Social Services has determined that the child meets the immunisation requirements.
- In special circumstances, the South Australian Chief Public Health Officer may grant an exemption.

Immunisation protects the person who has been immunised, children who are too young to be vaccinated, and other people who have been vaccinated but did not respond to the vaccine. The most accessible locations for vaccination are the family doctor, Tea Tree Gully Council at 571 Montague Road, Modbury (Phone 8397 7444) or the GP Plus Super Clinic Modbury (Phone 7425 8700).

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for families, children and staff and aims to prevent the spread of infection. Infections can be spread when a child or adult is diagnosed with an infectious disease, before and / or after they show symptoms of an infectious disease. Any symptoms of infectious diseases that show in an adult or child within the Children's Centre will be handled in accordance with the guidelines in the Department of Health and Community Services "Staying Healthy in Child Care" publication. **If symptoms occur while the child is at the Centre and indicate that the child may be contagious or if a fever occurs, parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to collect their child within an hour.**

Management will:

- Require families to provide evidence of their child's immunisation status.
- Inform parents that if their child has not been immunised, depending on advice from the public health unit, their child may be **excluded** during outbreaks of some infectious diseases (such as measles and whooping cough) even if the child is well.
- Advise parents upon enrolment and at least three times a year of exclusion processes.
- Inform staff at induction of the risk of working with children, infection control and infectious diseases.
- Encourage staff to have immunisations.

- Keep a record of all staff members known immunisation status.
- Advise staff upon an outbreak of an infectious disease within the Children's Centre.
- As part of their duty of care, inform staff upon induction about the specific risk of cytomegalovirus. (CMV) and to ensure a safe work environment for all is provided by adhering to good hygiene practices.
- Regularly review Children's Centre policies in regards to health and wellbeing.

Staff will:

- Contact the child's parent / guardian if the child is showing symptoms of an infectious disease.
- Monitor the child's well - being including temperature.
- Advise the parent / guardian of the exclusion guidelines as advised in 'Staying Healthy in Child Care'.
- Advise all families of an infectious disease outbreak within the Children's Centre by placing notices on the Sign In desks, in the Community space and on the gates.
- Advise parents / guardians of an outbreak of an infectious disease in person if their child has an immunity impairment.
- Advise management if they have contracted an infectious disease and not attend work for the recommended exclusion period and provide a medical certificate upon return to work if requested.
- Keep management up to date with current and subsequent immunisation information.
- Notify the Department of SA Health Communicable Diseases regarding any notifiable disease as outlined on the Report of Notifiable Diseases or Related Death.

Parents will:

- Provide documentation of their child's immunisation status via the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register on www.medicareaustralia.gov.au at enrolment and as requested.
- Inform the staff about when their child has recently been immunised.
- Inform the staff if their child has been diagnosed with an infectious disease.
- Exclude their child from attending the Children's Centre for the advised exclusion period.
- Provide a medical clearance certificate before their child returns to the Children's Centre if requested.
- Maintain their child's immunisation schedule if they wish to claim Child Care Subsidy.

CREATED: November 2007

REVIEWED: November 2008, July 2009, July 2010, July 2011, July 2012, July 2013, July 2014, July 2015, July 2016, July 2017, July 2018, July 2019, March 2020, August 2020

TO BE REVIEWED: March 2021

SOURCED: Adelaide Women's & Children's Hospital
Staying Healthy in Child Care 2013
"You've Got What?" 4th Edition 2009, Govt of SA
Children's Services Child Care Centre Regulations 1998
Public and Environmental Health Act 1987
Wash Wipe Cover – SA Infection Control Service
Australian Government National Health & Medical Research Council
DECD Immunisation Policy 2017