



MINLATON DISTRICT EARLY LEARNING CENTRE **IMMUNISATION and ILLNESS POLICY and PROCEDURE**

At Minlaton District Early Learning Centre we encourage all parents/guardians to ensure children are given age appropriate immunisations by health professionals.

Following changes to the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*, from 7 August 2020, children will not be able to enrol in or attend early childhood services unless all immunisation requirements are met (No Jab, No Play).

Immunisation Records

Families must provide current approved immunisation records. This includes:

- a copy of their child's current immunisation record that shows that the child's immunisation is up-to-date or on catch up schedule with a future end date
- evidence that their child has an approved exemption from the Chief Public Health Officer.

Parents or carers can access an immunisation history statement via:

- [Medicare](#) through [MyGov](#)
- [Express Plus Medicare mobile app](#)
- contacting the [Australian Immunisation Register](#) general enquiries line on 1800 653 809 and requesting that a statement be posted to them.

The immunisation history statement will show:

- the child's name
- date of birth
- the date the statement was downloaded
- immunisation status.

The immunisation status will read 1 of 3 things:

- up to date
- catch-up schedule
- not up to date.

These are not approved immunisation records and cannot be accepted:

- a letter from a general practitioner;
- the South Australian Child Health and Development Record
- the 'Blue Book'
- an overseas immunisation record.

Records must be given at the below times by parents or carers to show the child is up to date with all immunisations and the immunisations have been given at the correct schedule points.

A current approved immunisation record needs to be supplied:

- 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.

Overseas immunisation records must not be accepted as they are not an approved immunisation record under the Act. Families will need to take a copy of their translated overseas immunisation record to an immunisation provider, who will enter this information into the Australian Immunisation Register.

Approved Exemptions

- child is less than 7 months of age
- child has a medical contraindication to a vaccine, such as anaphylaxis
- child has natural immunity to a particular disease
- child is a part of an approved vaccine study
- vaccine is temporarily unavailable
- Secretary has determined that the child meets the immunisation requirements
- Chief Public Health Officer grants an exemption
 - in relation to a specified child or a group of children
 - in relation to specified early childhood services or early childhood services of a specified group
- child is vaccinated overseas. A child vaccinated overseas will not automatically be granted an exemption. The overseas schedule for which that child was vaccinated will need to meet Australian immunisation schedule requirements. An immunisation provider will need to assess if this meets the Australian requirements and enter all doses administered overseas into the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

Preventing the spread of infectious diseases

The centre takes precautions to prevent or minimise the spread of infectious diseases through:

- following [good hand and respiratory hygiene](#) including regularly washing hands and covering nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing
- cleaning and disinfecting contaminated items and increasing the cleaning schedule for contaminated areas
- treating all blood and body substances as potential sources of infection and use personal protective (eg gloves, glasses, face masks)
- using waterproof coverings over any break in the skin
- [safe disposal of used needles and syringes](#)
- following appropriate procedures for the handling and disposal of contaminated waste.

Ensure children and educators with symptoms and signs of an infectious disease such as fever, cold/flu, vomiting or diarrhoea:

- have limited contact with others
- are encouraged to seek medical attention
- follow [SA Health's exclusion from childcare, preschool, school and work](#)
- stay at home until symptoms have passed.

Illness and Medication Notification

- Parents are requested to inform Centre staff of any illness, medical condition or medication in relation to their child.
- The Centre will inform parents (via SMS/notices/other communication structures), of any childhood diseases reported, symptoms to look for and the length of time the child needs to stay away from the centre if the disease is contracted.

Exclusion Period

- If a child is unwell at home parents/guardians are asked not to bring the child to the Centre.
- Parents will keep the child with an infectious or potentially infectious disease away from the Centre for an appropriate exclusion period.
- The exclusion period is based on the time the person with a specific disease or condition might be infectious.
- Some diseases require a medical certificate before the child or adult can be readmitted to the centre.
- Children with vomiting and diarrhoea may not return to the Centre until 24 hours from their last occurrence of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Reporting infectious diseases

Minlaton District Early Learning Centre requires children, staff and any other adults who display symptoms of an infectious disease or illness, other than the common cold, are to be removed from the Centre as soon as possible.

Senior staff will make the initial decision regarding this exclusion from care.

National Health and Medical Research Council Guidelines for exclusion shall apply to the following conditions:

- Amoebiasis
- Campylobacter infection
- Candidiasis (Thrush)
- Chicken Pox
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- Cold sores (Herpes)
- Conjunctivitis
- Croup
- Cryptosporidium infection
- Diarrhoea
- Diphtheria
- Food poisoning
- Giardia infection
- Glandular Fever
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease
- Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib infection)
- Head lice
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis D
- Hepatitis E
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection
- Hydatid disease

- Impetigo (School Sores)
- Influenza
- Legionnaires' disease
- Leprosy
- Measles
- Meningitis
- Meningococcal infection
- Molluscum contagiosum
- Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MESA) skin infection
- Mumps
- Norovirus
- Parvovirus infections
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection
- Ringworm/tinea
- Ross River virus
- Rotavirus infection
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Salmonella infection
- Scabies
- Scarlet Fever
- Shigella infection
- Streptococcal sore throat
- Toxoplasmosis
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Typhoid, paratyphoid
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Viral gastroenteritis
- Warts
- Whooping cough
- Worms

Staff exclusion

Infected workers may be excluded from the Centre for the appropriate exclusion period.

In the case of serious ill health or hospitalisation the staff member will require a medical certificate from their medical practitioner or specialist, verifying that their recovery is sufficient to enable their return to the Centre.

Pregnant Workers/Parents and Infectious Diseases

Pregnant parents will be made aware of how some diseases can affect their unborn child and relevant information displayed in areas visible to families. The Director will give pregnant workers more detailed information.

Notifiable Disease

The Director will notify public health workers at the South Australian Health Commission in the event of an outbreak of certain disease.

Parent Information

The Centre will provide parents, information about common childhood illnesses and specific centre procedures, including exclusion based on the National Health and Medical Research Council Guidelines as necessary.

For information refer to the 'You've Got What' information of SA Health website for exclusion periods and other details.

Staff

All adult workers and volunteers at the centre should be aware of their immunisation status and ensure they are up to date, especially as they are working in an 'at risk' environment.

Staff are encouraged to consider additional immunisations as recommended.

References

- National Health and Medical Research Council Exclusion Guidelines
- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
- SA Health website

Governing Council Chairperson

Centre Director

Policy Creation Date:

November 2008

Policy Reviewed:

September 2018; May 2021, May 2023

Next Policy Review Date:

May 2025