

Caroline Chisholm School – Chisholm Preschool Unit Staff Immunisation School Policy and Procedure

The health advice on immunisation is that educators and other staff who are not immunised can place children (especially younger age groups) at greater risk of acquiring a vaccine-preventable disease. All education and care service staff should be advised of the potential consequences if they choose not to be immunised. These include;

- Being restricted to working with children over 12 months old;
- Potentially having to take antibiotics during outbreaks of bacterial diseases that are vaccine preventable, even if the educator is not ill; and
- Being excluded from work during outbreaks of preventable diseases.

Educators who are concerned about potential health risks related to the immunisation should consult their GP for advice.

For further information on preventing infectious disease immunisation refer to the Staying Healthy 5th edition and for further information on work health and safety vaccine requirements, visit Safe Work Australia Early Childhood Education and Care.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends that all educators and other staff are immunised against:

Pertussis (whooping cough) this is especially important for educators and staff caring for the youngest children who are not fully vaccinated

Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) for educators and other staff born during or since 1966 who do not have vaccination records of two doses of MMR, or do not have antibodies against rubella

Varicella (chicken pox) for educators and other staff who have not previously had varicella

Hepatitis A as young children may not show symptoms but can still be infectious

All staff should also consider having yearly **influenza** vaccinations. Influenza is very infectious and can spread through the air by coughing and sneezing, as well as by hands, cups and other objects that have been in contact with an infected person's mouth or nose.

Additional vaccinations are recommended for special categories of educators and other staff;

Hepatitis B is recommended for educators and other staff who care for children with intellectual disabilities. Although the risk is low, seek advice about Hepatitis B immunisation if the children are not immunised. Immunisation of the children should be encouraged.

Japanese encephalitis is recommended for educators and other staff who work in the outer Torres Strait Islands for 1 month or more during the wet season.

All staff involved in the Preschool environment are recommended to have these vaccinations and complete the Preschool Staff Immunisation Record (attachment A).

Preschool Staff Immunisation Record

Staff member name: _____ DOB _____

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Please complete the following table with your immunisation status for these diseases, indicating whether you had the disease or whether you are vaccinated and the date of the vaccination.

Disease/ Vaccine	Confirmed infection	Had vaccine	Date	Notes/ status
Pertussis (whooping cough)				
Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)				
Varicella (chicken pox)				
Hepatitis A				
Hepatitis B				
Japanese encephalitis				
Influenza				
Covid 19				