
Immunisation Policy

In a setting where many children play together, illness and disease can spread from one child to another even when the service implements recommended hygiene and infection control practices.

CSIROCare follows the Victorian No Jab No Play legislation which came into effect on 1 January 2016.

Before enrolment – No Jab No Play requirements

- The parent/carer must provide an immunisation history statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).
- The statement must show the child is 'up to date' with immunisations.
- Children vaccinated overseas must have their vaccine records assessed by a GP or local council immunisation service and be offered catch-up vaccinations as required. The GP or local council must then report the overseas administered vaccines to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).
- The AIR must make a file for a new child to Australia and update the child's records. The parents/carers can request an immunisation history statement from the AIR. It can take up to 14 days before the immunisation history statement is available for the family/carer. Alternatively, immunisation providers can print a copy of the statement and provide it to the family after vaccine/s are recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Parents/carers must provide the statement to the early childhood service to confirm enrolment.

You do not need to be eligible for Medicare to obtain an immunisation history statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

After enrolment – No Jab No Play requirements

CSIROCare will take reasonable steps to ensure we hold a current immunisation history statement for each child.

This includes:

- Twice a year, issue a general reminder to parents/carers that they must provide an updated immunisation history statement if their child has received or been due for a vaccination.
- Review enrolment records for children whose parents/carers may be at greater risk of falling behind with their child's immunisations.
- Provide follow-up requests for an up to date immunisation history statement from parents/carers if necessary.
- Assess immunisation history statements to ensure they indicate the child is up to date with immunisations.
- Support parents/carers to comply by providing information or referral to support services.

16-week support/grace period

There are some children in the community whose families face difficulties accessing vaccinations and/or the required documentation to prove immunisation status. Children experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage are eligible to enrol in a service under a 'support period' (also known as the 'grace period') without proof of up to date immunisation. The 'support period' provisions allow the family to continue accessing early childhood education and care services while receiving information and assistance to get their child's immunisations up to date and obtain the required immunisation history statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) that needs to be provided to the service.

Families who answer 'yes' to any of the following criteria are eligible for the 'support period' (also known as the 'grace period'):

- Are you and your child currently evacuated from your home due to an emergency such as a flood or bushfire? (document the verbal response)
- Is your child in the care of an adult who is not the child's parent due to emergency or exceptional circumstances such as parental illness or incapacity? (document the verbal response)
- Did your child arrive in Australia as a refugee or asylum seeker? (document the verbal response)
- Is child protection involved with your family, or have they been in the past? (document the verbal response)
- Has your family received support through Family Services? (document the verbal response)
- Are you living in crisis or emergency accommodation, or are you supported by a housing agency or family violence service? (document the verbal response)

Further resources can be found at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/no-jab-no-play>