



## TORRENS VALLEY CHILDREN'S CENTRE INC.

(ABN No. 72 250 859 178)

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### IMMUNISATION AND INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

This policy is to be implemented in conjunction with DECD **Protecting children against vaccine preventable diseases procedure (13/01/2017)**.

#### VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

At Torrens Valley Children's Centre, we encourage parents to ensure that their children have been given age appropriate immunisations by health professionals. Our aim, in accordance with Department of Education & Child Development (DECD) is to:

- ✚ Help protect children from diseases that can be prevented by vaccination
- ✚ Help protect others who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons from being exposed to these diseases
- ✚ Help protect our employees from diseases that can be prevented by vaccination

In the event of an occurrence of a vaccine preventable disease, according to the *Childhood Immunisation schedule*, access to the vaccine status of children will identify those who are at risk of getting the disease and those who are able to pass it on to others.

As a DECD operated service our centre must:

- ✚ Request and sight the immunisation status of each child
- ✚ Follow exclusion requirements in the event of an occurrence of a vaccine preventable disease
- ✚ Support the prevention and control of infectious diseases by
  - Supporting the childhood immunisation schedule
  - Providing a prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease

DECD operated services are not expected to give expert advice or treat children, this is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities.

#### **RECORD KEEPING:**

##### ENROLMENT:

As part of the enrolment process, parents are requested to make immunisation records available for sighting. The enrolling staff member will initial the enrolment form to confirm that the record has been sighted. A copy of the record may be made and attached to the enrolment form. If no records are sighted the child will be recorded as being non-immunised.

##### FREQUENCY OF SIGHTING RECORDS:

A record of each vaccination is to be provided to the centre for sighting within 2 weeks of the vaccination being given or when next attending the centre (whichever occurs first)

Where an immunisation record is not provided or where the record is out-dated when sighted, then these children will be recorded as non-immunised.

Once a child has completed the recommended vaccinations from the childhood schedule (at 3 ½ - 4 years) no additional immunisation records are required to be sighted

#### EXEMPTION FROM VACCINATIONS:

Children who have a medical reason for not being vaccinated are required to have a general practitioner complete an *exemption form*. Blank copies of this form are available at the centre. A completed form should be sighted by the centre. These children will be recorded as non-immunised.

#### HOMEOPATHIC IMMUNISATION:

Homeopathic immunisation is not recognised as a valid vaccination option. Children receiving homeopathic immunisation will be recorded as non-immunised.

#### EXCLUSION REQUIREMENTS

If there is an occurrence of an infectious vaccine preventable disease (VPD) covered by the *Childhood Immunisation Program* at the centre, then a child who is recorded as non-immunised is to be excluded in accordance with the *SA Health exclusion period guidelines*. A copy of the *Childhood Immunisation Program* is provided with this policy. A copy of the *SA Health exclusion period guidelines* is available from the centre on request.

#### REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The occurrence of a communicable disease, including a vaccine preventable disease covered by the *Childhood Immunisation Program* is a reportable matter in accordance with clause 174(2) of Schedule 1 of the Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011.

Our centre is required to lodge a report of an occurrence on IRMS (Site leader or HR rep to complete) in accordance with *Injury Incident Reporting and Investigation Procedure*.

#### CENTRE STAFF

The centre will ensure all staff are provided with up to date information and/or professional development in relation to health issues, immunisation and infection control. All staff are encouraged and, where appropriate, supported financially to have immunisations.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend that children's services staff be immunised against:

- **Hepatitis A** - because young children may not show any symptoms but can still be infectious.
- **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** - if they have not previously been infected with the chicken pox virus
- **Pertussis** - An adult booster dose every 10 years is especially important for those staff caring for our youngest children who are not yet fully vaccinated

*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.*

## **COMMUNICATING WITH OUR FAMILIES**

- Information about recommended immunisations & immunisation clinics and infection control is available from the centre. Newsletters, handouts and social media will be used to provide updated information and/or reminders.
- The centre will record and display notification of any instances of vaccine preventable diseases.

## **INFECTION CONTROL OF ANY OTHER INFECTIOUS/COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:**

- The centre will record and display information on any current instances of infectious/communicable diseases that have been reported to us. This information includes when the child/staff member last attended, what the symptoms of the illness are and the length of time that children/staff with this illness need to be excluded from attendance at the centre (if applicable). The exclusion period is in accordance with [SA Health exclusion period guidelines](#). The centre may request that a medical certificate be provided before the child or adult can resume attendance/work at the centre.

## **WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME OR IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL AT THE CENTRE:**

If children display any of the following symptoms, they should be kept at home. If a child presents with any of these symptoms whilst at the centre, parents will be notified and asked to arrange collection of their child as soon as possible:

- Difficulty breathing
- Refusing to drink
- Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea
- Uncontrollable coughing
- Complaining of a headache, earache, sore throat or has a discharging ear (or onset of pain/discomfort anywhere)
- A fever (38 degrees or higher)
- Lethargic, pale and sleepy
- Needing constant comfort - has no interest in play
- Unexplained rash

**Please note that ALL CHILDREN and STAFF must not attend the centre until AT LEAST 24 HOURS after they have last vomited or had diarrhoea**

**Policy version date: 15/02/2017**

**This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed in accordance with DECD Early Childhood Services directorate recommendations.**