



## TORRENS VALLEY CHILDREN'S CENTRE INC.

(ABN No. 72 250 859 178)

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### IMMUNISATION AND INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

As per South Australian legislation, all children attending the Torrens Valley Children's Centre must have received their scheduled immunisations and have provided a copy of their approved immunisation records from Medicare to the centre. This legislation is aimed 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.

As an early childhood service we must support the prevention and control of infectious diseases by:

- ✚ Obtaining & hold a copy of each child's up to date Immunisation History Statement which can be downloaded from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) records.
- ✚ Following SA Health exclusion requirements in the event of an occurrence of a vaccine preventable disease
- ✚ Providing a prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of disease

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

### **RECORD KEEPING: WHEN DO APPROVED IMMUNISATION RECORDS NEED TO BE PROVIDED?**

Children be enrolled, commence attendance or cannot continue to attend at the centre unless they have received their scheduled immunisations and a copy of these from their Medicare records is provided to the centre.

Parents/Legal Guardians must provide the service with approved current immunisation records at the below times:

- At the time of the child's enrolment for the provision of the service
- 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 3 months but before the child turns 4 years 8 months of age

Failure to provide records in accordance with this timeline will result in education and/or care being withdrawn until such time as records approved current immunisation records are provided.

### **EXEMPTION FROM VACCINATIONS:**

Children who have an approved exemption from meeting the all immunisation requirements must provide the centre with a copy of the immunisation history statement where the approved exemption will be reflected.

## EXCLUSION REQUIREMENTS

If there is an occurrence of an infectious vaccine preventable disease (VPD) covered by the [Childhood Immunisation Program](#) at the centre we will enact exclusion period/s 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*. For illnesses recorded in the Kindy program, the Dept. for Education will notify the Education Standards Board from the IRMS report submitted. For the Child Care service, a report must be made directly to the Education Standards Board through the online ACECQA portal.

## 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 are strongly encourage to have **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.
- Information including SA Health FAQs is attached to this policy
- 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:

- CURRENTLY (during COVID19 pandemic) - any symptoms of a cold such as runny nose, sneezing, coughing, mild sore throat, feeling unwell.  
ALSO.....
- Refusing to drink
- Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea
- Persistent or Uncontrollable coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- 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. 48 hours is recommended.**

**Policy version date: 02/07/20    Next review date: July 2023**

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed in accordance with SA Health and DfEd advice/guidelines.