

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Limited

Department: Education	Description: Policy
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Vaccination

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SECTION	CHANGES IN THIS VERSION

Policy and Procedure for Vaccination in Schools Operated by Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd.

1. Scope

This policy for vaccination of students and staff is applicable to all schools operated by Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Limited. It includes children attending all of the system's schools, parents and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements.

2. Purpose

To provide a guideline to Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Limited on vaccination of students and staff to effectively manage the risk to children and employees of exposure to diseases that are preventable by vaccination.

References:

- Public Health Act 2005 (Qld)
- Public Health Regulations 2005 (Qld)
- Australian Privacy Principles
- Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. Work Health and Safety Policy
- <<ECEC Service Name>> Illness Policy
- Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. Privacy Policy
- Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. Record Retention

3. Policy

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. is committed to ensuring the health and safety of children and employees at the schools we operate who are at risk of exposure to diseases that are preventable by vaccination. Immunisation of children and employees is an effective way to manage this risk.

It is the policy of Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. to:

- Actively support the immunisation of all children enrolled at the service;
- Actively support the immunisation of all employees working at the service; and
- Inform parents and employees of vaccination recommendations.

In line with the Public Health Act 2005, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. will comply with requests from Queensland Health for information regarding a child enrolled at the service who has a contagious condition.

3.1.1 Children

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. requires details of any previous infection with vaccine-preventable diseases and the immunisation status for such disease for each child to be kept in their enrolment record. Accordingly, an immunisation history statement will be sought from families upon the enrolment of their child, and thereafter when the child passes a vaccination age milestone relevant to Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. (being in Years 8 and 10).

In accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. recommends that enrolled children are

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vaccinated according to their age group. Please see Appendix A for more information regarding the recommended vaccinations according to a child's age group.

Outbreaks of Infectious Disease:

In accordance with the *Public Health Act 2005*, if children are not medically vaccinated according to their age group, they will be excluded from attendance at Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. during outbreaks of some infectious diseases in the community (such as measles and pertussis), even if the child is well. If a family has not provided an immunisation history statement to the service, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. will assume that the child is not medically vaccinated and act accordingly.

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. requires details of any previous infection with vaccine-preventable diseases and the immunisation status for such diseases for each employee to be kept in their employment record.

Furthermore, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. recommends that its employees are immunised against:

- Pertussis
- Measles–mumps–rubella (MMR)
- Varicella
- Hepatitis A
- Influenza
- Hepatitis B (if caring for children with intellectual disabilities)

Employees who are pregnant or immunocompromised should seek their own medical advice about vaccinations.

If an employee refuses reasonable requests for immunisation, there may be potential consequences as follows:

- Being excluded from work during outbreaks of preventable diseases.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Parents

- To inform the school promptly if their child contracts a preventable disease.
- Be aware of and act in accordance with Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. Immunisation Policy;
- Provide an accurate and up to date record of their child's infectious disease record and an up to date immunisation history statement upon enrolment;

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- Provide an accurate and up to date copy of their child’s immunisation history statement when the child passes a vaccination age milestone relevant to Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. (being in Years 8 and 10); and
- Accept and act upon decisions by Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. to exclude their child during outbreaks of some infectious diseases if the child is not medically vaccinated against the disease, as recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council exclusion guidelines and the *Public Health Act 2005*.
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4.2 School Principal

- To discuss with the parents/carers:
 - The school’s policy on vaccination including the recommendation that all students should be vaccinated,
 - The need for disclosure to the school of the child’s vaccination status and record
 - The need to keep their child home during outbreaks of preventable diseases in the community
 - The need to inform the school promptly if the child contracts a preventable disease.
- To communicate with school staff and provide:
 - training and support regarding
 - the vaccination policy,
 - Information about their obligation to provide the school with their vaccination status and record.
 - Their obligation to remain at home during outbreaks of preventable diseases in the community.
 - Their obligation to exclude from school unvaccinated children during outbreaks of preventable diseases in the community.
- Keep up to date and accurate records of the immunisation status of children and employees;
- Manage the collection of “sensitive information” about health information, including immunisation, in accordance with the *Australian Privacy Principles*;
- Take all reasonable steps to encourage children and employees who are not medically vaccinated to be vaccinated; and
- Comply with information requests by Queensland Health under section 172 of the *Public Health Act 2005*.

4.3 School Staff

- To participate in training provided regarding the vaccination policy.

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- To follow any instructions and directions given by the School Principal regarding preventable diseases.
- Be aware of and act in accordance with Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. Immunisation Policy;
- Provide an accurate and up to date record of their infectious disease record and immunisation status upon commencement;
- Advise Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. in a timely manner when they receive a vaccination;
- Accept and act upon decisions by Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. to take appropriate action to protect employees who are not medically immunised from infectious diseases; and
- Accept and act upon decisions by Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. to exclude employees during outbreaks of some infectious diseases if they are not medically vaccinated against the disease, as recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council exclusion guidelines.

5. Definitions

Definitions relevant to this policy include:

Catch-up schedule: a documented plan to complete a course of vaccination and provide optimal protection against disease as quickly as possible

Contagious condition: means a contagious medical condition prescribed under the *Public Health Regulation 2005*, Schedule 2A, Part 1 as a contagious condition

Immunisation: both receiving a vaccine and becoming immune to a disease, as a result of being vaccinated

Immunisation history statement: Section 160A of the *Public Health Act 2005* defines this statement as being:

- an official record issued by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) or
- a letter from a recognised immunisation provider (e.g. a General Practitioner or recognised immunisation nurse).

The Red Book or Personal Health Record from Queensland Health is a good record for parents. However, as it contains hand written immunisation records it is not recognised as an official record of a child's immunisation status and is not an acceptable form of proof of vaccination.

Medically vaccinated: when a person has received a vaccine that has been scientifically proven to be effective in preventing disease

Non-medically vaccinated: when a person has either not received a vaccination at all, or has received a treatment that is said to act as a vaccine but has not been scientifically proven to be effective (e.g. homeopathic or naturopathic vaccination)

Vaccination: having a vaccine; that is, actually getting the injection

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6. Implementation

In practice, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. commitment to effectively managing the risk of exposure to diseases that are preventable by vaccination means that it will implement the following measures:

- Awareness - regularly raise awareness of the importance of immunisation, including by the development and implementation of this Policy, taking all reasonable steps to encourage children and employees to be vaccinated via the clear support and promotion of this Policy; and
- Record keeping, monitoring, reporting – keep appropriate records, monitor and report on immunisation within the school.
- Recognise preventable diseases as a hazard when carrying out risk assessments for excursions to remote and/or overseas locations where the availability of medical assistance is limited and take into account risks to the following:
 - Unvaccinated children
 - Unvaccinated staff
 - Other people with whom students may come into contact during the excursion such as passengers on all forms of transport and unvaccinated people in developing countries.
- Where preventable diseases are included as a hazard, the same risk management principles must be applied as with all other hazards. Eliminate the hazard where practicable and apply control measures where it is not. Residual risk ratings must be tolerable or lower for the excursion to proceed. Because excluding unvaccinated children from class during outbreaks of preventable diseases is part of this policy, exclusion of unvaccinated children from high risk activities where prompt, up-to-date medical treatment is not easily accessible must be considered as a viable method of controlling risk.

Monitoring and Compliance

In accordance with its responsibilities, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd. will undertake the following compliance and monitoring activities:

- Keep up to date and accurate records of the immunisation status of children and employees, as follows:
 - Develop a child and employee immunisation record that documents each child and employee's previous infection with vaccine-preventable diseases or immunisation for such diseases;
 - Require all new and current children and employees to complete the immunisation record;
 - When enrolling children, make a note of when the child will need updates to their vaccinations and remind parents of this in the month prior;

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- Regularly update child and employee immunisation records as vaccinations are administered; and
- Conduct an annual review of the immunisation status of all children and employees and take reasonable steps to support appropriate immunisation;
- Document advice given to parents and employees; and
- Comply with requests by Queensland Health under section 172 of the *Public Health Act 2005*.

6.1 Appendices

Appendix A – National Immunisation Program Schedule for Queensland from March 2015

6.2 Appendix A – National Immunisation Program Schedule for Queensland from March 2015

Age	Vaccine	Disease	Routine childhood vaccination	
			Additional vaccines for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people	Additional vaccines for medical conditions
Birth	HBVaxII (paediatric) TM	Hepatitis B	BCG (tuberculosis)*	
2, 4 & 6 months Vaccines due at 2 months can be given from 6 weeks of age. 4 & 6 months vaccinations should be given at 4 & 6 months.	Infanrix hexa TM	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-hepatitis B-poliomyelitis-Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	* Influenza from 6 months to less than 5 years of age (Do not administer bioCSL Fluvax [®] to this age group)	
	Prevenar 13 TM	Pneumococcal (13vPCV)		
	RotaTeq TM	Rotavirus		
12 months	Menitorix TM	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) Meningococcal C		
	Priorix TM or M-M-R II TM	Measles, mumps, rubella	Hepatitis A >> Vqta Paediatric TM	Pneumoco
18 months	Priorix Tetra TM	Measles, mumps, rubella Varicella	Hepatitis A >> Vqta Paediatric TM Pneumococcal (13vPCV) >> Prevenar 13 TM	
4 years Vaccines can be given from 3 years 6 months of age	Infanrix IPV TM	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-poliomyelitis		Pneumoco >> Pneum
	Priorix TM or M-M-R II TM	Measles, mumps, rubella (if child has not already had 2 doses of measles-mumps-rubella containing vaccine)		
Year 8	Gardasil TM	Human papillomavirus		
	Varitrix TM or Varivax TM	Varicella		
Year 10	Boostrix TM	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis		
	Boostrix TM	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis		
15 to 49 years			Influenza *Pneumococcal (23vPPV) >> Pneumovax 23 TM	
50 years and over			Influenza Pneumococcal (23vPPV) >> Pneumovax 23 TM	
65 years and over	Influenza Pneumovax 23 TM	Influenza Pneumococcal (23vPPV)		

* refer to Conditions associated with an increased risk of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) in current *Australian Immunisation Handbook*
All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to less than 5 years of age are eligible to receive influenza vaccine annually.

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Full poster available at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/publications/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/immunisation-schedule.pdf>

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