



GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Early Learning Centre Vaccinations Policy

1. Scope and Purpose

This Policy applies to all students enrolled at the School's Corio and Toorak Campus Early Learning Centres.

2. School Policy

- 2.1 Children are required to be fully vaccinated for their age pursuant to the *Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Act 2015* (Vic) (the **No Jab, No Play Law**).
- 2.2 The School requires all children enrolling in the School's Corio and Toorak Campus Early Learning Centres to have current vaccinations for their age, or to have an approved exemption.
- 2.3 Vulnerable and/or disadvantaged children are eligible to enrol under a grace period without having provided proof of up to date immunisation. This allows families to access services while they seek advice and assistance to get their child's vaccinations up to date.
- 2.4 The School's Corio and Toorak Campus Early Learning Centres can provide resources to help such families with immunisation information.

3. Documentation required as evidence of up-to-date vaccination upon enrolment

- 3.1 Upon their child's enrolment, parents/legal guardians are required to provide the School with the Immunisation History Statement that demonstrates that their child is either:
 - 3.1.1 fully immunised for their age; or
 - 3.1.2 on a vaccination catch-up program; or
 - 3.1.3 unable to be fully immunised for a medical reason.
- 3.2 Parents/legal guardians may access their child's Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (**AIR**). These can be obtained using the online Medicare account through myGov or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app. Alternatively, parents/legal guardians are able to call the AIR on 1800 653 809 to request their child's statement be posted to them. It can take 14 days to arrive by post.
- 3.3 The School does not accept other documentation to provide evidence of vaccinations.

4. Overseas vaccination statements

- 4.1 Parents/legal guardians are able to have overseas immunisations added to the AIR. They will need to take a translated copy of their child's overseas immunisation history to an Australian immunisation provider. The provider will check the vaccines the child has had and tell inform parents/legal guardians if any additional ones are required. They will update the AIR with immunisations given overseas as well as any new ones.
- 4.2 When the immunisations are recorded on the AIR, parents/legal guardians are able to ask the immunisation provider if they can print an Immunisation History Statement from the AIR to be provided to the School's Corio and Toorak Campus Early Learning Centres.
- 4.3 Alternatively, parents/legal guardians can call the AIR on 1800 653 809 to check if their child's immunisations have been recorded and request a statement to be posted (it can take up to 14 days to arrive by post). A translating and interpreting service is available by calling 131 450, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.45pm.

5. Medical Exemptions

- 5.1 Some children may be exempt from the requirement to be fully vaccinated on medical grounds.
- 5.2 Examples of valid medical reasons that a child could not be fully vaccinated include:
 - 5.2.1 an anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of a particular vaccine; or
 - 5.2.2 an anaphylactic reaction to any vaccine component; or
 - 5.2.3 has a disease which lowers immunity (such as leukemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS, SCID); or
 - 5.2.4 is having treatment which lowers immunity (such as chemotherapy).
- 5.3 Parents/legal guardians who think their child may require a medical exemption to one or more vaccines should consult their General Practitioner.
- 5.4 If a child had a medical reason so that they cannot be vaccinated, a General Practitioner is required to complete and sign a Medicare Immunisation Exemption Medical Contraindication Form and send it to the AIR.
- 5.5 The parent/legal guardian is then required to obtain an updated Immunisation History Statement from the AIR that indicates the child is up to date with all the vaccines that they can have and listed the vaccines that they cannot have for medical reasons. This statement needs to be provided by the parent to the relevant ELC to finalise enrolment.
- 5.6 Alternatively, parents and guardians can obtain documentation from their General Practitioner that meets the requirements for enrolment.



6. Grace periods

- 6.1 Under the No Job, no Play Law, vulnerable and disadvantaged children will be eligible to enrol with the School under a grace period, without having provided proof of up to date immunisation. The grace period provisions allow the family to continue to access early childhood services while receiving information and assistance to bring their child's immunisations up to date and to obtain the required immunisation documentation that needs to be provided to the School.
- 6.2 Children eligible to be enrolled under the grace period include:
 - 6.2.1 children evacuated from their place of residence due to an emergency such as a flood or bushfire;
 - 6.2.2 children in emergency care within the meaning of section 3(1) of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)*;
 - 6.2.3 children in the care of an adult who are not the child's parent due to exceptional circumstances such as illness or incapacity;
 - 6.2.4 children identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
 - 6.2.5 children whose parents hold a health care card, a pensioner concession card, a Veterans Affairs Gold or White card;
 - 6.2.6 children from a multiple birth of triplets or more; or
 - 6.2.7 any other circumstance specified in the guidelines made by the Secretary to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.
- 6.3 The grace period is for 16 weeks commencing from the date that the child first attends the School. During this time, the School's Corio and Toorak Campus Early Learning Centres will take reasonable steps to obtain the required immunisation documentation.
- 6.4 The Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Education and Training will assist with materials to support the School's Corio and Toorak Campus Early Learning Centres to implement any grace period provisions. This will include a checklist to determine eligibility for the grace period as well as information to provide to parents/legal guardians about where to access immunisation services.
- 6.5 During the grace period parents/legal guardians should, if required, have their child vaccinated, and/or obtain the necessary immunisation documentation and provide it to the School's Corio and Toorak Campus Early Learning Centres.

7. Review and Circulation

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