



Immunisation Policy Statement-Hackney and the City of London For registered Early Years settings and childminders

Date: (to be reviewed every two years or when guidelines change)

Name of setting Postcode of setting Type of setting

Lead practitioner responsible for implementing/reviewing this policy:

“Community immunity to infectious diseases is important to everyone, but especially children and pregnant women, which is why every organisation working with children must share the responsibility of ensuring children are up to date with their immunisations. Early years settings have a crucial role in the health and wellbeing of children and are in a privileged position to safeguard many children by playing their part in supporting the immunisation programme”
Hackney and City GP

Aims

As part of our setting’s ongoing work to promote and protect the health and well-being of all children, families and staff we will share consistent messages with parents, from trusted sources, about the importance of keeping up to date with the recommended childhood immunisations.

1. All staff working with children and families are aware of the importance of immunisations

Keeping up to date with the recommended childhood immunisations protects children from serious infectious diseases such as measles, rubella, tetanus and meningitis. Some of these diseases can kill, others may cause lasting damage to health. Whilst vaccines are not completely risk free the evidence is that immunising your child is overwhelmingly much **safer** than not immunising. Immunisations prepare children’s bodies to fight off infectious diseases, some of which can spread quickly through groups of children if unprotected.

In recent years there has been a reduction in the number of children taking up immunisations which has led to outbreaks of these diseases and needless deaths. Sharing information about the immunisation schedule and encouraging all parents to take up the free immunisation offer helps them to protect their own children and others in the community.

Further information can be sourced from the Government’s website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation>

2. We have a procedure in place for checking, recording and updating children’s immunisation status

We understand that it is very important to maintain an up to date record of all children’s immunisation status. Some children under our care may be at a higher risk of exposure to infectious diseases due to them mixing with more children and adults or due to their medical needs. Keeping a current record of all children’s immunisation status helps us to quickly identify which parents/carers need to be informed in the event of an outbreak of a specific disease.

On registration to the setting and at regular points e.g. during developmental review meetings, we will request to see the ‘red book’ as evidence/confirmation of the child’s immunisation status. Parents whose children were born outside of the UK will be asked to provide confirmation of their child’s immunisation status via their GP or Health Visitor.



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3. Lead staff are confident in sharing relevant information about the recommended immunisations with parents and caregivers and are able to signpost them to further support and trusted information where needed.

We acknowledge that some parents may be anxious about immunisations and may need more support and reliable information from a registered health professional to be able to make an informed choice.

Parents who want to access scientific information can look here:

<https://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/research/vaccine-knowledge-project>

Lead staff can confidently share information with parents about which immunisations are due and when they are due:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/Pages/childhood-vaccination-schedule.aspx.

Lead staff are confident in communicating the importance of protecting babies from an early age and not delaying the recommended immunisations.

If records indicate that a child is not fully immunised, lead staff will encourage the parent/carer to contact their GP or talk to their health visitor. They will also reassure them that it is never too late to catch up on what has been missed. They will share local information about accessing immunisations, including where and how catch up appointments can be accessed in the community (where applicable).

If there are a significant number of parents who are choosing not to immunise their children, we will seek further advice/support from a local registered healthcare professional.

Local information Hackney: <https://www.hackneyandcityhealthvisiting.nhs.uk/timeline/>

Local information City of London:

<https://fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk/kb5/cityoflondon/fyi/service.page?id=kPMk3Qws4xg>