

## PEREGIAN BEACH COLLEGE Early Learning Centre

## **Immunisation Enrolment Requirements**

You may be aware that from 1 January 2016, a new Queensland law relating to immunisation came into effect. Under this new law, approved early childhood education and care services can cancel, refuse or place a condition on enrolment or attendance of children whose immunisations are not up-to-date.

We are committed to the health and well-being of children in our care, their families, and our staff. That is why we will be supporting Queensland's new immunisation law. You may also be aware the Australian Government's "No Jab No Pay" law also came into effect from 1 January 2016. Under this new law if your child is not fully immunised, it will affect your family assistance payments. The Australian Government law is separate from the Queensland law. Under the Queensland law, approved early childhood education and care services can, at their discretion, allow children whose immunisation status is not up-to-date to attend. Whilst this is acceptable under the Queensland law, you should be aware that under the Australian Government law, family assistance payments will be affected. It is recommended parents seek further information on how the Australian Government's "No Jab No Pay" law will affect your own circumstances at <a href="https://www.humanservices.gov.au">www.humanservices.gov.au</a> (search for immunising your children).

As such, you are required to provide an immunisation history statement showing that your child's immunisation status is up-to-date. The statement can be obtained from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) at any time free of charge:

- Through Medicare Online Services at www.humanservices.gov.au
- Through the Medicare Express Plus App on a smartphone (download app for free from Google Play or iTunes stores)
- By emailing <u>acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au</u> supplying the child's full name, date of birth and Medicare number (may take up to 7 business days)
- By calling ACIR on 1800 653 809 (may take up to 7 business days)
- In person at a local Medicare Service Centre

You will also be required to provide us with an updated immunisation history statement after each vaccination milestone as outlined in the National Immunisation Program Schedule Queensland. The schedule is available at <a href="https://www.health.qld.gov.au/publications/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/immunisation-schedule.pdf">www.health.qld.gov.au/publications/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/immunisation-schedule.pdf</a>

If your child's immunisation status is not up-to-date, or if we do not receive an immunisation history statement from you, we may be required to:

- Cancel the enrolment or
- Refuse attendance until proof of an up-to-date immunisation status is provided, or
- Impose another condition on enrolment or attendance until proof of an up-to-date immunisation status is provided

Queensland Health has developed a smart phone app specifically for parents to keep a record of their child's immunisation history. The VacciDate app also reminds you when vaccinations and appointments are due.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Wearing Director of Early Learning