



St Michael's Collegiate

Set for life

4 September 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Immunisation Records

The Public Health Act require schools and child care centres to keep information about students' immunisation records with respect to Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Polio, Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (HIB) infection, Mumps, Rubella (German Measles) and Measles.

Our records indicate that we do not have this information for your daughter. This information should be provided in writing from a medical practitioner, council, or the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register. Alternatively, a parent must provide a statutory declaration stating that he or she believes the student to be immunised against each disease but cannot produce proof. The only other alternative is for the parent to provide a statutory declaration saying he or she has a conscientious objection to immunisation against the disease.

To obtain your child's immunisation history you can:

- Use your child's personal health record as proof of immunisation, if for each vaccine administered, the doctor or Council staff member has clearly signed or printed their name.
- Ask your doctor or local Council for signed information on a letterhead saying exactly which disease your child has been immunised against and when this happened.
- Contact the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) on 1800 653 809. The ACIR may have information if your child was immunised after February 1996.

I have included an information sheet for parents provided by the Department of Community and Health Services, a form to be completed and copies of the statutory declarations should you wish to use them.

These details should be updated on the *Confirmation of Student Details* form each year.

Please forward the required information to your child's campus office.

Junior School: Mrs Emily Lukianenko emily.lukianenko@collegiate.tas.edu.au

Middle School: Mrs Debbie Betts debbie.betts@collegiate.tas.edu.au

Senior School: Mrs Stephanie Gillman stephanie.gillman@collegiate.tas.edu.au

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Fergus Leicester
Chief Operating Officer

TASMANIAN IMMUNISATION REQUIREMENTS

A guide for parents and guardians

The Tasmanian *Public Health Act 1997* includes provisions designed to help prevent children from catching and spreading a number of childhood vaccine preventable diseases. The *Act* states that a person in charge of a school or child care facility must require a parent or guardian to provide information about a child's immunisations when the child is about to attend that school or facility for the first time.

The diseases covered by these provisions are: **Chicken Pox, Diphtheria, Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (HIB) infection, Hepatitis B, Influenza, Measles, Meningococcal infection, Mumps, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Pneumococcal infection, Polio, Rubella (German Measles) and Tetanus.**

What information do you need to provide about your child's immunisation?

If your child is starting school or child care, you must present information in writing stating whether or not your child has been immunised against each of the diseases above.

Also, even if this is not your child's first year at school or child care, it is likely you will be asked for this information.

Does this mean my child must be vaccinated?

No. If your child can't be vaccinated because of medical or other reasons, the information you provide in writing should say so.

However, if your child is not vaccinated, he or she may be excluded from school if there is an outbreak of one of these preventable diseases at the school or in child care.

What do I need to do?

To get your child's immunisation history, you can:

- * use your child's Personal Health record as proof of immunisation, if for each vaccine administered, the doctor or Council staff member has clearly signed and printed their name.
- * use the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) statement provided to you when your child turns 5 years of age.
- * ask your doctor or local Council for signed information on a letterhead saying exactly which diseases your child has been immunised against and when this happened.
- * contact the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) on phone 1800 653 809. The ACIR may have information if your child was immunised after February 1996.

Should your child receive any additional vaccinations after starting school or child care, it is important to make sure that school and child care records are updated. Otherwise your child may be unnecessarily excluded from school or child care in the future.

What if I am sure my child is fully vaccinated, but can't remember the details or I can't get the required information?

If you believe your child has been immunised against certain diseases but you can't get written proof, you can fill in and sign up a Statutory Declaration explaining this. A sample Statutory Declaration form is available at your child's school or child care facility.

What if I object to the vaccination of my child?

If you object to having your child immunised you must sign a Statutory Declaration stating this fact.

Is homeopathic "immunisation" recognised?

No. Homeopathic "immunisation" has not been shown to work as an alternative to conventional immunisation in preventing serious illness. Only conventional immunisation has been proven to provide enough protection against these diseases.

Will my child have to stay home if there is a disease outbreak at school or in child care?

If an outbreak of any of these diseases is declared in your community and your child is not fully immunised, they may have to stay home. When the outbreak is declared to be over they may return to school or child care. This will prevent the disease spreading to other children.

Of course, if your child has one of the childhood diseases then they will have to stay home until better.

Where do I go for more information?

For further information about immunisation requirements, speak to staff at:

- Your child's school or child care facility
- Your local Council
- Your Doctor
- The Family, Child and Youth Health nurse in your local community.

You may also contact the Department of Community and Health Services' Immunisation Hotline on phone 1800 671 738.

TASMANIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, *(insert name)*.....

of *(insert address)*

.....in Tasmania,
do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1 I am the parent/guardian of *(insert name of child)*

2 I believe that my said child's immunisation status in respect of each of the diseases listed below is as specified below:

DTP	yes	/	no
MMR	yes	/	no
POLIO	yes	/	no
HIB	yes	/	no
HEPATITIS B	yes	/	no
PNEUMOCOCCAL	yes	/	no
CHICKEN POX	yes	/	no
INFLUENZA	yes	/	no
MENINGOCCAL	yes	/	no
ROTA VIRUS	yes	/	no

** delete either yes or no for each disease above*

all of which matters I conscientiously believe to be true.

AND I make this solemn declaration by virtue of Section 132 of the Evidence Act 1910.

Declared at am/pm)

This.....day of (*month*).....(*year*))
(*Sign here*)

in the presence of:)

.....
**A Justice of the Peace
or Commissioner for Declarations**

TASMANIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, *(insert name)*.....

of *(insert address)*

..... in Tasmania,
do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1 I am the parent/guardian of *(insert name of child)*

2 I conscientiously object to having my said child immunised

all of which matters I conscientiously believe to be true.

**AND I make this solemn declaration by virtue of Section 132 of the
*Evidence Act 1910.***

Declared at am/pm)

This..... day of..... *(month)*..... *(year)*)
(Sign here)

in the presence of:)

.....
**A Justice of the Peace
or Commissioner for Declarations**