

January 2013

Dear Parents and Staff

Why Timely Vaccination is Important

Wherever children mix with other children (eg in child care, school etc) they are potentially at risk of picking up or passing on infectious diseases through close contact. Timely vaccination can help protect your child AND the children they play with.

The National Immunisation Program recommends vaccination for children at certain ages:

Age	Vaccines Recommended
Birth	One dose of hepatitis B vaccine gives babies some early protection against this infection.
2, 4 and 6 months (Can be given from 6 weeks)	These vaccinations provide the "primary course" of protection, with 3 doses of combined diphtheria- tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough)-Hib-hepatitis B-polio vaccine, 3 doses of pneumococcal vaccine, and two doses of rotavirus vaccine. The child will not be fully protected until all recommended doses are given.
12 months	First doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) and meningococcal vaccines. Booster dose against Hib infection.
18 months	Varicella (chickenpox) vaccination (combined with 2 nd dose of MMR from July 2013)
4 years (Can be given from 3½ years)	Booster dose of combined diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough-polio vaccine and 2 nd dose of MMR vaccine (given at 18 months from July 2013). These doses are vital even if all earlier vaccines have been given.
High school	Human papillomavirus vaccination. Booster against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. Vaccination against varicella and hepatitis B if not previously given.

Please remember that booster vaccination is now recommended at 4 years of age for maximum protection. (Due between age 3 years 6 months and 4 years 1 month.)

Vaccination of your 3½ to 4-year-old may also protect younger siblings! Children who have not completed their vaccinations due between 2 month and 12 months of age are especially vulnerable to whooping cough and measles, and can then pass these diseases on to close household contacts, whether siblings or parents.

So... don't delay vaccination. Don't wait for "big school" or "the holidays" or "after the holidays" or any other reason. **Vaccinate on time.**

For more information on vaccination, see www.chainofprotection.org or www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Immunisation/index.asp or www.science.org.au/immunisation.html and we also encourage you to discuss any questions you might have with your family doctor.



Lynelle Hales,
CEO, South Eastern Sydney Medicare Local



Professor Mark Ferson,
Director, Public Health Unit