

Important facts

- To enrol your child in childcare, an up to date Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement (for a child that is up to date or can't be immunised for medical reasons) OR an AIR Immunisation History Form (for a child on a catch-up schedule) must be provided.
- Immunisations are most effective if given on their due date (see your 'Save the Date to Vaccinate' phone app or baby's Blue Book for immunisation dates).
- Not immunising your child on time puts them at risk of catching a disease and becoming very sick.
- Children with a minor illness such as a runny nose or slight cold can still be safely immunised.
- Immunising many people in a community also protects those who are unvaccinated and helps control serious preventable diseases.

More information

Australian Immunisation Register

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>

NSW Health

www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation

NSW Health 'Save the Date to Vaccinate'

www.immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au

Australian Government Department of Health Immunise Australia Program

www.immunise.health.gov.au



Download the handy
SAVE THE DATE phone app
or print a personalised
schedule at **immunisation.
health.nsw.gov.au**



Childcare and pre-school entry & immunisation

Parent information



From 1 January 2018, only children who are fully immunised for their age OR have a medical reason not to be immunised OR are on a catch-up schedule can be enrolled in childcare. Children who have not been immunised due to their parent's vaccine conscientious objection cannot be enrolled in childcare.

All parents need to provide childcare staff with appropriate immunisation documentation to enrol their child. This includes long day care, family day care, occasional care and pre-school.

Why immunisation is important

Immunisation is the best way to protect your child from serious diseases. By immunising your child, you are protecting them and the broader community, especially those who are too young to be immunised or those that are not able to be immunised for medical reasons. The more people that immunise their children, the more we can control serious preventable diseases.

AIR Immunisation History Statement

Parents must provide an Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) History Statement (that shows a child is up to date or can't be immunised for medical reasons) OR an AIR Immunisation History Form (that shows a child is on a recognised catch-up schedule), when enrolling a child in childcare.

Parents can request a copy of their child's AIR Immunisation History Statement at any time (up to their child being 14 years of age):

- using their Medicare online account through myGov <https://my.gov.au/>
- using the Medicare Express Plus App www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/express-plus-mobile-apps
- calling the AIR General Enquiries Line on 1800 653 809

'Up To Date' children

Children who have had all the immunisations for their age will have the words "Up to date" on the top left hand side of their AIR Immunisation History Statement. The due date of the next immunisation will be recorded in the bottom section of the Statement.

Children who cannot be immunised for medical reasons, or who have natural immunity, will still be recorded as "Up to date" if an AIR Medical Exemption Form has been filled out by a GP/nurse and sent to the AIR. The medical exemption or natural immunity will be listed near the bottom of the updated AIR Immunisation History Statement.

For older children who have had all of their immunisations, their Statement will include the words "This child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age" at the bottom of the page.

Updated Immunisation History Statement

After each immunisation, parents should provide their child's updated AIR Immunisation History Statement to their childcare centre.

Inaccurate AIR Immunisation History Statement

If some of the immunisations which have been given to your child are missing from their AIR Immunisation History Statement, parents need to contact the GP/nurse who administered the vaccine to check that the records were sent to the AIR. Once the record has been corrected, request an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement.

'Not Up To Date' children

Children who have not had all the recommended immunisations for their age can still be enrolled in childcare once they start on a catch-up schedule. Your GP/nurse needs to fill out an AIR Immunisation History Form, send it to the AIR and give you a copy so that it can be provided to the childcare centre.

Please be aware that children who have not had all the recommended immunisations for their age may need to stay at home during a disease outbreak. This is to protect the child and stop the spread of disease.

Children vaccinated overseas

Overseas immunisation schedules may be different from the Australian schedule. If your child was immunised overseas, their immunisation record will need to be checked by a GP/nurse who will transfer the information to the AIR. Parents should then request an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement to give to the childcare centre.