



Immunising your child

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way to protect your child against harmful diseases that can cause serious health problems. Immunisation helps your child stay healthy and protects the community by reducing the spread of disease.

Free immunisations in Australia

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule is a series of immunisations given at specific times throughout your life. The NIP Schedule lists which vaccines your child should get and when. Vaccines listed on the NIP Schedule are free.

Go to health.gov.au/immunisation to view the NIP Schedule and more information about immunisation in English.

What you need to do

Talk to your child's vaccination provider to make sure your child gets the vaccines listed on the NIP Schedule.

When your child gets a vaccine, ask your vaccination provider to record it on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). The AIR is a national register that records vaccines given to people of all ages in Australia.

Viewing your child's immunisation history

To see your child's immunisation record, you can get an immunisation history statement. This allows you to:

- keep track of their immunisations, and
- provide proof of immunisation for child care or school enrolment.

It also shows:

- when their next vaccines are due
- overdue vaccinations, and
- immunisation medical exemptions.

The quickest way to get an immunisation history statement is online, using:

- your Medicare online account through myGov, or
- the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

For more information in English, go to humanservices.gov.au/medicareonline

If you are not eligible for Medicare, you will not be able to access a statement online. Instead, you can:

- ask your vaccination provider to print one for you
- visit a Department of Human Services service centre, or
- call **1800 653 809** in English.

Immunisation history statements only list immunisations that have been recorded on the AIR by recognised vaccination providers. Vaccination providers work in many places, including medical practices and community health clinics. If your child's statement is incorrect, contact your vaccination provider and ask them to update the AIR.

Immunisation details for individuals 14 years of age or over can only be released to that person. If your child is 14 years or over, they will need to access their own statement. This information cannot be provided to a parent or guardian without your child's consent, even if you are listed on the same Medicare card.

Immunisation and family assistance payments

Your child's immunisations can affect whether you get family assistance payments. Make sure your child has the immunisations they need from the NIP Childhood Schedule (birth to 4 years) for you to get:

- Family Tax Benefit Part A
- 2017–18 Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement
- Child Care Subsidy
- Additional Child Care Subsidy
- Child Care Benefit or Child Care Rebate as a lump sum for 2017–18.

You do not need to tell us when your child is immunised—we will check their status on the AIR.

Overseas vaccinations

If your child received vaccinations overseas, take proof of these (translated into English) to your Australian vaccination provider. They will check your child has been given the correct vaccinations to meet the NIP Schedule (birth to 4 years).

If your child meets the requirements, your Australian vaccination provider will update the AIR.

If your child does not meet the requirements, the vaccination provider will recommend a catch-up schedule of vaccinations.

If you have recently arrived in Australia and need your child's immunisation evidence translated, read more about the [Free Translating Service](#) in English on the Department of Social Services website.

Immunisation medical exemptions

Some children cannot be immunised because of a medical condition, or may not need a vaccine if they have natural immunity to a disease. An eligible doctor can record an immunisation exemption on the AIR.

For more information in English about immunisation medical exemptions, including a list of eligible doctors, go to humanservices.gov.au/medicalexemptions

For more information

- go to humanservices.gov.au/air
- go to humanservices.gov.au/yourlanguage where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language
- call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services
- call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** to speak with us in your language about Medicare and Child Support payments and services
- visit a service centre.

Note: calls from your home phone to '13' numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers. Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It is your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances.