

# Immunising your child



Australian Government



Services  
Australia

# Immunisation is important

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.

## National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule

The NIP Schedule is a series of immunisations given from birth through to adulthood. 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](https://health.gov.au/immunisation)** to view the NIP Schedule.

## 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, your vaccination provider will 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 online, using:

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

You can use your child's immunisation history statement to:

- keep track of their immunisations
- check when immunisations are due
- provide proof of immunisation for child care or school enrolment.

You can also see any immunisation medical exemptions.

Go to **[servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicareonline](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicareonline)** for more information.



If you can't access your child's statement online:

- ask your vaccination provider, such as a general practitioner or community health centre, to print one for you, or
- call **1800 653 809**.

Immunisation history statements only list immunisations that have been recorded on the AIR by vaccination providers. Vaccination providers work in a number of settings, 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'll need to access their own statement. This information can't be provided to a parent or guardian without your child's consent, even if you're listed on the same Medicare card.

## Immunisation and family assistance payments

Vaccines listed on the NIP Childhood Schedule (birth to 4 years) are linked to family assistance payments. Your child must be up to date with these immunisations for you to get:

- Family Tax Benefit Part A
- Child Care Subsidy
- Additional Child Care Subsidy

You don't need to tell us when your child is immunised. We'll check their status on the AIR using their Medicare details.

# Immunisation medical exemptions

Some children can't be immunised because of a medical condition, or they may not need a vaccine if they have natural immunity to a disease. They may be able to have an immunisation medical exemption recorded on the AIR so they can still get family assistance payments. An eligible doctor can record an immunisation exemption on the AIR.

For more information about immunisation medical exemptions, including a list of eligible doctors, go to **[servicesaustralia.gov.au/immunisation](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/immunisation)**

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information, go to **[servicesaustralia.gov.au/air](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/air)**

## DISCLAIMER

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The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It's your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances. The information is accurate as at January 2022.

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.



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