

Important facts

- To enrol your child in primary or secondary school, please provide an immunisation certificate, either: an **AIR Immunisation History Statement** (for a child that is up to date, not up to date or can't be immunised for medical reasons or has natural immunity) OR an **AIR Immunisation History Form** (for a child on an approved catch-up schedule).
- If an approved immunisation certificate is **not** provided at enrolment, students can still be enrolled at school but they will be considered as unimmunised in the school's immunisation register.
- Students without an approved immunisation certificate and those who are unimmunised may be excluded from school if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the school OR if they come into contact with a person with a vaccine preventable disease, even if there is no outbreak at the school.
- NSW Health works closely with schools to offer the vaccines recommended for adolescents in a school-based vaccination program. In 2018, human papillomavirus (HPV) and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) vaccines are being offered in Year 7 while Meningococcal ACWY vaccine is being offered in Years 10 and 11.

More information

Australian Immunisation Register

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

Save the Date app

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



Primary and secondary school entry & immunisation

Parent
information

From 1 April 2018, all school principals are required to request an immunisation certificate at enrolment.

While students can still be enrolled if an approved immunisation certificate is not provided, these children will be considered unimmunised and may be excluded from school if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the school OR if they come into contact with a person with a vaccine preventable disease, even if there is no outbreak at the school.

Parents are encouraged to ensure that their children are up to date with their immunisations and to provide an immunisation certificate from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) at enrolment, either:

- an AIR Immunisation History Statement OR
- an AIR Immunisation History Form

Why these changes have been made

These changes have been made to collect accurate information about children's immunisation status and to help manage disease outbreaks in schools and the community. Data show that there has been an increase in some vaccine preventable disease notifications in older children compared to younger children. Also, it is now easy for parents to access the immunisation records of older children on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) which holds immunisation records given at any age*.

* Currently immunisations given in the School Vaccination Program are not sent to the AIR. Commencing in late 2018 school immunisation records will begin to be sent to the AIR. School vaccination records are not required for enrolment, however if you wish to obtain records for your child, contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055

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 others in the 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

The AIR records the immunisations given to children and sends parents an AIR Immunisation History Statement after their child has turned 4 years of age. This can be used for enrolment.

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**

Children aged 14 years and over can request their own Immunisation History Statement from the AIR by using or creating their own Medicare online account through myGov <https://my.gov.au/>

Fully immunised children

Over 94% of children in NSW are fully immunised at 5 years of age and their AIR Immunisation History Statement will include the words "This child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age" at the bottom of the page.

Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity

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

Children immunised overseas

Where vaccines have been given overseas and are not recorded on the AIR, the child's overseas records should be checked by a GP/nurse who will then transfer the information to the AIR. Parents should then request an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement to give to the school.

Children not fully immunised

For children who have not had all the recommended immunisations by 4 years of age, their AIR Immunisation History Statement will list the missing immunisations and the due dates at the bottom of the page. These children should be started on an approved catch-up schedule and an AIR Immunisation History Form completed by the GP/nurse and sent to the AIR. Parents can then provide a copy of the AIR Immunisation History Form to the school at enrolment.

Please be aware that students who have not had all the recommended immunisations for their age, or where no immunisation certificate has been provided, may need to stay at home during a disease outbreak. This is to protect the child and stop the spread of disease.