

# Starting primary school?

Immunisation information for parents enrolling a child into primary school in Victoria

## Why immunise?

Children starting school are exposed to a large number of people and to a range of potentially dangerous diseases.

Immunisation is a proven and safe way to be protected against diseases that may cause serious illness and sometimes death.

Enrolling in primary school is a good time to check your child's immunisations are up to date.

## What is an *Immunisation History Statement*?

It is a statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) that shows what vaccines your child has received.

By law, you must provide a current Immunisation History Statement from the AIR to the primary school when enrolling your child for the first time or when going to a new primary school.

If your child has not received any immunisations, you must still provide a current Immunisation History Statement, which states no vaccines have been given.

## What is the statement used for?

To keep children safe. In the event of a vaccine preventable disease outbreak, unimmunised children can be quickly identified and may be required to be excluded from school until the risk of infection has passed. For further information refer to the 'school exclusion table' at:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectiousdiseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>



If you do not provide an *Immunisation History Statement* to the school, your child may be excluded from school during a disease outbreak because their immunisation status will be unknown.

By law, all parents must provide a current *Immunisation History Statement* from the AIR to enrol their child in primary school.

## How do I obtain an *Immunisation History Statement*?

The quickest way to get your child's statement is by using your Medicare online account through myGov or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

Alternatively, you can call the AIR on 1800 653 809 and request for your child's statement to be posted to you. It can take 14 days for your statement to arrive by post.

If you think your child's *Immunisation History Statement* is incomplete or incorrect, contact your immunisation provider.

## What if my child has had immunisations overseas or they are not eligible for Medicare?

You can get overseas immunisations added to the AIR. You need to take a translated copy of your child's overseas immunisation history to your Australian immunisation provider. They will check the vaccines your child has had and tell you if any additional ones are required. They will update the AIR with immunisations given overseas as well as any new ones.

When your child's immunisations are recorded on the AIR, ask your vaccination provider if they can print an *Immunisation History Statement* from the AIR for you to give to your child's primary school.

Alternatively, you can call the AIR on 1800 653 809 to check if your child's immunisations have been recorded and request a statement to be posted to you. It can take up to 14 days to arrive by post.

A translating and interpreting service is available by calling 131 450, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.45pm.



**Translating and  
interpreting service  
Call 131 450**

## How can I find out more?

For more information search 'childhood immunisation' on [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

For translated versions of this document go to [www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au](http://www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au) and search 'starting primary school'

To receive this publication in an accessible format email [immunisation@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

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