



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Your child's immunisation records

Frequently asked questions



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Frequently asked questions for parents

What do the regulations mean to parents/guardians?

Parents have always been encouraged to share their child's Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement with their child care service, kindergarten and school upon enrolment and now they are legally obliged to do so.

How do I access my child's AIR Immunisation History Statement?

You can access your child's AIR Immunisation History Statement at any time through:

- [MyGov](#), by logging into your Medicare online account
- [Medicare Express Plus App](#), by logging into your Medicare account
- Visiting a Medicare or Centrelink office
- Calling the AIR General Enquiries Line on 1800 653 809 for your statement to be posted.

If you do not hold a Medicare card, you must call the AIR on 1800 653 809 to request an Immunisation History Statement. Your child can still have an AIR record even if your child is not registered with Medicare.

An AIR Immunisation History Statement is automatically sent to you after your child has completed their childhood immunisation schedule.

My child is 'up to date' with their vaccinations. What do I need to do?

You are required to provide a copy of your child's AIR Immunisation History Statement on application for enrolment in child care, kindergarten or school.

My child is 'not up to date' with their vaccinations. What do I need to do?

You are required to provide a copy of your child's AIR Immunisation History Statement on application for enrolment in child care, kindergarten or school. If requested to do so, the person in charge of the child care service, kindergarten or school will be required to report your child's immunisation status to the Department of Health. Following this, the Department of Health may contact you to provide a referral to local immunisation services.

You can get immunisations from your:

- doctor
- local immunisation clinic, visit healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/Where-can-I-get-my-vaccination
- local government (not all offer this service)
- ahcwa.org.au/members

Your immunisation provider will need to start giving the immunisations that are overdue, and inform the AIR.

My child can't receive all the usual vaccines for medical reasons. What do I need to do?

Some children are unable to be immunised for medical reasons, such as having a severe allergy to vaccine ingredients or having a severely suppressed immune system. Documented immunity from previously having had the disease may be a valid exemption to vaccination for some diseases.

If your child has a valid medical reason that they cannot be vaccinated, a GP (or other eligible health professional) needs to either:

- complete, sign and submit an [AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/forms/im011), (servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/forms/im011), or
- provide notification directly in the child's online AIR record.

Following either step above, you will need to obtain an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement that indicates your child is 'up to date' with all the vaccines that they can have, lists the vaccines that they cannot have due to a medical contraindication, and/or states that they have a medical exemption from vaccination. This updated AIR Immunisation History Statement needs to be provided by you to the child care, kindergarten or school. In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the facility your child attends, and for your child's protection, your child may be excluded from attending for a specified period of time.

My child is catching up with immunisations. What do I need to do?

If your child is currently on or about to commence an approved catch-up schedule of immunisations, your immunisation provider needs to formally advise the AIR by selecting the 'Planned catch-up for overdue vaccines' check-box in your child's online AIR record.

You are required to provide a copy of your child's AIR Immunisation History Statement on application for enrolment in child care, kindergarten or school. If your child is catching up immunisations, this Statement will show the immunisation status as 'not up to date' and is on an approved catch-up schedule. The child care service, kindergarten or school may be required to report your child's immunisation status to the Chief Health Officer. Following this the Department of Health may contact you to discuss your child's catch-up schedule.

AIR will only allow one catch-up schedule recorded per individual, with a grace period of 6 months to allow for the child to receive the required vaccinations for their age.

When a catch-up schedule is recorded in the AIR, your child meets the immunisation requirements for Child Care Subsidy payments, under the Commonwealth's No Jab No Pay policy, for the 6 month grace period. If your child does not receive the required vaccinations within this grace period, they can continue with their catch-up program, but it is likely that being behind with vaccinations will affect eligibility for Child Care Subsidy payments.

During the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the facility your child attends, and for your child's protection, your child may be excluded from attending the facility for a specified period of time.

My child has been fully vaccinated but their AIR Immunisation History Statement is not up to date. What do I need to do?

After your child has been vaccinated, updates to your child's AIR records may take up to a few weeks to process. However, if the missing vaccinations were given more than a month ago, contact your immunisation provider and ask them to update the information on the AIR.

Alternatively, please email a photo of your child's vaccination records and along with their Medicare number and their date of birth to your [local public health unit](https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Contact-details-for-population-public-health-units) (healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Contact-details-for-population-public-health-units) and the AIR records will be updated accordingly.

If any details such as name or date of birth are incorrect on the AIR, or if you have recently changed your address, please call the Medicare general enquiries line anytime on 132 011 and ask to have these updated.

My child was vaccinated overseas. What do I need to do?

If you have moved to Australia from overseas you should make sure your child's previous vaccinations are recorded on AIR.

When you arrive in Australia, take any information about your child's overseas immunisations to your doctor or immunisation provider. They will add these details to your child's record on AIR and let you know if your child needs any additional immunisations to become fully protected according to the Australian childhood immunisation schedule. This update in AIR may take up to a few weeks. Following the update to the child's AIR record, parents can then access an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement and provide a copy on application for enrolment in child care, kindergarten or school.

Individuals that are not registered with Medicare can still have an AIR record. Your immunisation provider or the Central Immunisation Clinic will be able to assist in setting one up.

If translating services are required,

- it is recommended that local immunisation providers contact their local [WA Public Health Unit](https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Contact-details-for-population-public-health-units) (healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Contact-details-for-population-public-health-units) to organise these documents to be translated; or
- overseas immunisation records can be sent to the [Department of Home Affairs](https://translating.homeaffairs.gov.au/en/) (https://translating.homeaffairs.gov.au/en/) who provide a free document translating service for most permanent residents and select temporary or provisional visa holders.

Further information for parents is available from healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/S_T/Starting-or-moving-schools-immunisation-records

How often do I need to provide my child's AIR Immunisation History Statement?

Parents/guardians are required to provide their child's AIR Immunisation History Statement at enrolment into a child care service, kindergarten or school. This includes enrolling you child into:

- a child care service (long day care and family day care services only)
- a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten program
- pre-primary

- secondary school
- a new school.

There may also be other situations where immunisation records are required to limit or prevent the spread of a vaccine preventable disease.

Do I still have a choice to vaccinate my child?

Yes. Vaccination is not compulsory and you will continue to have the choice whether or not to vaccinate your child. If you have decided not to vaccinate your child, you still need to provide your AIR Immunisation History Statement on enrolment at a child care service, kindergarten or school.

Governments have a responsibility to make decisions that balance the best possible community health outcomes with individual choices.

Using these regulations, the Department of Health aims to increase immunisation rates in the community, particularly amongst young children, by providing effective follow up of under-vaccinated children. This is a key public health priority, given the serious risk posed by vaccine preventable diseases, and the proven safety and efficacy of vaccines.

Who can I contact for more information?

More information about the new requirements is available by contacting:
immunisation@health.wa.gov.au

Further information can also be found at the following links:

- Immunisation requirements for child care services, kindergarten and schools (health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Immunisation-enrolment)
- [Starting or moving child care, kindergarten or school - immunisation records](#) (HealthyWA)
- [Immunisation information for parents](#) (HealthyWA)
- [Australian Immunisation Register](#), (servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register) to get your child's vaccination history statement
- [Department of Human Services](#) contacts (servicesaustralia.gov.au)

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

Produced by the Immunisation Surveillance and Disease Control Program
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