

Starting or moving child care, kindergarten or school – immunisation records

Immunisation is important

Vaccine preventable diseases, such as measles or mumps, can have serious health consequences for young children and others in the community.

The child care and classroom environment, where children are in close proximity to each other, allows diseases to spread quickly between children who are not fully vaccinated. Other visitors, such as parents, other family members and staff, are also at risk. You can help protect your child by ensuring his or her vaccinations are up-to-date.

Your child's immunisations should be registered with the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).



You need to share your child's AIR history statement with the child care service, kindergarten or school.

Why does my child care, kindergarten or school need my child's immunisation record?

The child care service, kindergarten or school needs to know which children are not fully immunised for their age, to protect the children in their care. Children whose immunisation status is not up-to-date may be excluded during outbreaks of some vaccine-preventable diseases.

Recent changes under the *Public Health Act 2016* also mean that child care services, kindergartens and schools are required to share immunisation-related data with the Department of Health upon request. With this information, the Department of Health can support families to get their children fully vaccinated through their local immunisation providers.

Parents/ guardians are legally obliged to provide their child's AIR statement at enrolment and re-enrolment in a child care service, kindergarten or school. This includes:

- enrolling your child for a child care service, including long day care, and family day care services
- enrolling your child for kindergarten and pre-primary
- enrolling your child for secondary school – your child's secondary school still needs to know if your child has not received his or her early childhood immunisations. Again, this is because if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease these students may be excluded from school.
- transfers between schools (primary and secondary).

How do I access my child's immunisation records?

Early childhood immunisations

All immunisations given to children are recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). An AIR history statement is automatically generated when an individual completes their early childhood immunisation schedule.

What immunisation records do I need to provide?

If your child was born in Australia

You will be able to get a copy of your child's AIR history statement.

Alternative immunisation records can be difficult to interpret and will not be accepted.

If your child was not born in Australia

If your child is not registered on the AIR, for example if they were born overseas, you should contact your immunisation provider (GP or child health clinic) and ask them to forward your child's overseas records to AIR to ensure you get an AIR statement for future use.

If you have chosen not to immunise your child for medical or other reasons

You are still required to provide the child care service, kindergarten or school with an immunisation record such as an AIR certificate indicating that no vaccinations have been administered.