

Immunisation

Starting primary school? Immunisation information for parents enrolling a child

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By law, your child must have an immunisation status certificate to enrol in primary school.

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 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 status certificate?

- It is a statement showing the immunisations your child has received.
- By law, you must provide an immunisation status certificate to the primary school when enrolling your child.
- If your child has not received any immunisations, you must still provide a certificate.
- The school keeps a copy of the certificate so that, in the event of a disease outbreak, unimmunised children can be quickly identified and excluded from school until the risk of infection has passed.
- If you do not provide the certificate to the school your child may also be excluded from school as their immunisation status will be unknown.
- Homeopathic treatment is not a legally recognised form of immunisation and cannot be listed on an immunisation status certificate.

How do I obtain an immunisation status certificate?

From the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register

- phone 1800 653 809 or
- email acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au
- www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online
- visit your local Medicare Office.

The most common type of immunisation status certificate is a *Child History Statement* from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR). You will be sent this statement when your child turns five years old, however you can request a certificate at any time. You should also contact ACIR if you:

- are moving or have recently moved, to ensure your contact details are up to date
- think your child's statement is incomplete or incorrect.