

Get the facts



Check your source of information

- Ensure your decisions about immunisation are based on scientific fact.
- Beware of misguided and misleading (yet compelling) information about immunisation on the internet.
- Advice from well-meaning friends and relatives may not always be factually correct.
- Your best source of information about immunisation is your doctor or vaccine service provider, or visit qld.gov.au/vaccinate

What if your child is unwell?

Children can usually get vaccinated even if they have a mild illness like a cold, ear ache, mild fever or diarrhoea.

If your child has a fever over 38.5° Celsius on the day, they shouldn't be immunised. Valid reasons not to immunise children are rare, but if you are unsure, ask your doctor.

If your child has ever had an allergic reaction or is undergoing a treatment that suppresses the immune system, such as chemotherapy, check with your doctor before immunisation.



Be on time



Know when your child's vaccinations are due.

Make an appointment with your doctor, or find out if your local council or child health centre offers free vaccination clinics.

Discuss any concerns with your doctor or vaccine service provider before the scheduled vaccination date.

Download the free **VacciDate** app to get appointment reminders.

Keep a record of vaccinations

Take your child's Personal Health Record to each vaccination so the service provider can record the details for you.

If your address has changed, you must notify Medicare on 132 011 or you can contact the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) on 1800 653 809 to update your child's details. ACIR can also provide a free copy of your child's immunisation history.

Childcare requirements



From 1 January 2016, new laws may affect your childcare options and your childcare payments. If you always vaccinate your child on time, you provide them with the best protection possible and don't have to worry.

You may be asked to show an:

- immunisation history statement when first enrolling your child
- updated immunisation history statement when your child passes the 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months and 4 years vaccination milestones.

In Queensland, if your child is not up to date, the service can choose to:

- refuse enrolment
- cancel enrolment or refuse attendance
- conditionally accept enrolment or attendance.

If your child is not up to date, you may also miss out on childcare payments from the Australian Government.

Download the free **VacciDate** app to get reminders when each vaccination is due and to keep records for every child in your family.

Download VacciDate
FREE from your app store.



This information is also available online in:
Chinese, Hindi, Arabic, Farsi, Dari, Tamil, Torres Strait Creole, Portuguese and Vietnamese.

Visit qld.gov.au/vaccinate or call
13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) for more information.
Telephone interpreter service: 13 14 50

VACCINATION MATTERS.



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To provide the best protection, every vaccination should happen on its due date.

It's the number one way to protect your child from preventable diseases.

Don't take the risk



Vaccine-preventable diseases such as polio, diphtheria, whooping cough and measles are still common in many countries. Increased travel into and out of Australia means the risks are real. Vaccine-preventable diseases occur every year in Queensland.

Babies are especially vulnerable. A mother's antibodies, passed on during pregnancy and through breast milk, provide only temporary protection and only to certain diseases.

Immunisation is the best way to protect your child, and others in our community, from preventable diseases, hospitalisation and even death.

It is important that your child receives all their vaccines on their due dates as outlined in the Queensland Childhood Immunisation Schedule. Download the free VacciDate app to help you keep track.

Vaccination is important for adults too, to boost immunity or to catch-up on missed childhood doses, or to protect against travel, occupational and lifestyle risks.

How immunisation works

Immunisation uses the body's natural defence mechanism—the immune response—to build resistance to specific diseases.

Vaccines prompt your child's immune system to fight if they are exposed to the disease in the future.

This is how immunisation stops diseases from developing or reduces the severity.

Vaccines are safe



The benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks of becoming ill with a life-threatening disease.

Vaccines are rigorously tested in thousands of people in large clinical trials.

In Australia, every vaccine must pass stringent safety testing before the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) will register it for use.

Once registered, the TGA coordinates very robust surveillance to detect any possible safety issues with the vaccine.

Serious adverse reactions are rare



Like all medications, vaccines can cause reactions.

Common reactions are localised pain, redness and swelling at the injection site and low-grade fever.

Give your child paracetamol as per directions to lower fever or relieve discomfort and make sure you consult your doctor if fever persists.

If any reaction occurs that you consider serious or unexpected, seek medical advice.

Report all adverse reactions to your doctor or vaccine service provider. This helps the TGA to monitor for any vaccine safety issues.

Serious reactions such as severe allergic reactions are extremely rare.



National Immunisation Program Schedule Queensland – March 2016



Age	Disease	Routine childhood vaccination plus	
		Additional vaccines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Additional vaccines for medically at-risk children*
Birth	Hepatitis B	BCG (tuberculosis)#	
6 weeks, 4 months and 6 months	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)	*Influenza (from 6 months to under 5 years annually)	
	Pneumococcal (13vPCV)		
	Rotavirus		
12 months	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) Meningococcal C	Hepatitis A	Pneumococcal (13vPCV)
	Measles, mumps, rubella		
18 months	Measles, mumps, rubella, varicella	Hepatitis A Pneumococcal (13vPCV)	
	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis		
4 years	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis		Pneumococcal (23vPPV)
	Human papillomavirus		
Year 7 and Year 8 (in 2016 only)	Varicella		
	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis		
15 to 49 years		Influenza *Pneumococcal (23vPPV)	
50 years and over		Influenza Pneumococcal (23vPPV)	
65 years and over	Influenza Pneumococcal (23vPPV)		

*Refer to Conditions associated with an increased risk of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) in current *Australian Immunisation Handbook*.

#Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children receiving influenza vaccine for the first time require 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart.

The *National Immunisation Program Schedule* is subject to change. Ask your doctor or vaccine provider about what vaccinations are due.