

You can request a copy of your child's immunisation record at any time through the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). To learn more about the AIR at the Department of Human Services website, humanservices.gov.au or phone 1800 653 809.



Where can I go to get my child vaccinated?

Parents can visit their GP or community health clinic to get their child immunised. Visit healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation for more information.

Childhood immunisation schedule

The schedule opposite lists the immunisations offered to children through the National Immunisation Program.

Use the checklist to tick off your child's immunisations.

Please visit healthywa.wa.gov.au/childhoodimmunisation

Age	Disease protected against	
Birth	Hepatitis B (1 injection) <i>(usually offered in hospital)</i>	☐
6-8 weeks	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, haemophilus influenzae type b (1 injection) Pneumococcal (1 injection) Rotavirus (drops in mouth)	☐
4 months	As above	☐
6 months	As above except without rotavirus vaccine	☐
12 months	Haemophilus influenzae type b, meningococcal C (1 injection) Measles, mumps, rubella (1 injection)	☐
The following groups need an additional vaccine at 12 months:		
Aboriginal children	Hepatitis A, pneumococcal (1 injection)	☐
all medically at risk	Pneumococcal (1 injection)	☐
Pre-term or low birth weight	Hepatitis B (1 injection)	☐
18 months	Measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (1 injection) Aboriginal Hepatitis A (1 injection) Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) (1 injection)	☐
4 years	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), poliomyelitis (1 injection) All medically at risk Pneumococcal (1 injection)	☐
All children aged from 6 months to less than 5 years should also receive the influenza vaccine each year		



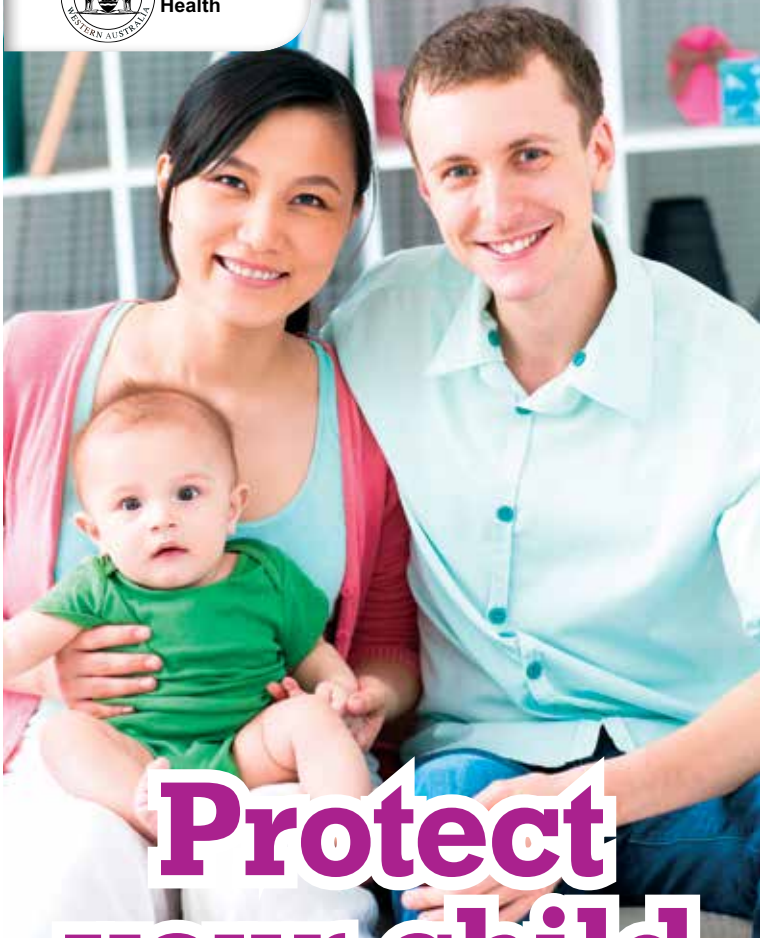
This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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Department of Health



Protect your child

Childhood immunisations defend against 16 serious diseases

- In the first months and years of life, babies are very vulnerable to infections and so need to be immunised to protect them against serious childhood diseases.
- Immunisation is free and reduces the risk of serious illness, disability and death.
- Make an appointment with your GP or immunisation provider.

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What is immunisation?

Immunisation protects individuals against harmful infections before they come into contact with them in the natural environment.

When a person is given a vaccine, it triggers a natural immune response in their body. This protects them if they come into contact with that disease again.

The World Health Organization considers immunisation to be the most effective medical intervention we have to prevent deaths and reduce disease in our communities, particularly for those under 5 years of age, as they are most vulnerable to disease.

Why should my child be immunised?

During the first few years of your child's life he or she will need a number of immunisations to protect them against the most serious childhood infections.

Newborn babies have very little natural immunity to the serious diseases protected against through immunisation. They are born with some immunity from their mothers, but this doesn't last.

If they are not immunised, babies and young children risk suffering serious complications from disease with devastating effects, including hospitalisation and even death.

It's important to protect young children against those diseases as early as possible.

Babies are also protected for up to six months after birth if their mothers are immunised against some diseases during pregnancy, such as influenza.

Immunisation benefits the entire community. When a significant proportion of the community are immune to diseases, people who may still be susceptible are less likely to come into contact with the infection.

Immunisations have had an enormous impact on improving the health of Australians. It's important that we continue to protect our children through immunisation because outbreaks of preventable diseases can and do still happen in Western Australia.

Diseases children are protected against through immunisation

Childhood immunisations keep children safe from the following serious diseases through the routine National Immunisation Program:

- Diphtheria
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis A (Aboriginal and medically at risk children only)
- Hepatitis B
- Measles
- Meningococcal C
- Mumps
- Whooping cough (pertussis)
- Pneumococcal
- Poliomyelitis
- Rotavirus gastroenteritis
- Rubella (German measles)
- Tetanus
- Chickenpox
- Influenza (annual vaccine).

These diseases can cause serious complications and sometimes death.

Special immunisation requirements

Some groups, including Aboriginal children and children who are medically at risk, are offered a different schedule to reflect their unique medical needs.

Aboriginal children are eligible to receive all the same routine immunisations given to other children, with some additions.

Medically at risk children, for example children with chronic diseases, or who are undergoing treatment for a medical condition, should speak to their GP or immunisation provider as they may be eligible for additional vaccines as well.

Does it hurt?

Many parents are understandably worried about how their baby might react to a needle.

Babies learn from a very young age to respond to cues from their parents to help them make sense of their world. When they are very young, they don't understand that they are separate people, with their own thoughts and feelings, so they pick up on their parents' cues and are calm when they are calm and unhappy if they are unhappy.

If parents stay calm during immunisation, the babies are usually fine, and it's all over before they've realised what's happened.

Side effects of immunisation

Vaccines are many times safer than the diseases they prevent, however, like any medication, they can have side effects. Side effects after vaccination are usually mild, like redness or soreness at the injection site, or a mild fever, and they don't last long.

Parents can give their children plenty of fluids to drink, and paracetamol (follow instructions on the packet) can help ease fever and any soreness. Parents are usually asked to stay at the clinic with their children for around 15 minutes after immunisation just in case their child does experience a rare side effect, like an allergic reaction.

It's important to remember – it's always better to prevent a disease than to treat it.

Learn more about side effects of immunisation at healthywa.wa.gov.au

When should my child be immunised?

Babies receive their first vaccination, hepatitis B, before they go home from hospital.

Your baby should then be immunised again at 6-8 weeks, 4, 6, 12 and 18 months AND at 4 years of age.

The 4 year old vaccine is the one most often forgotten by parents, but is very important for longer term protection.

You'll also be asked to provide a copy of your child's immunisation record when you enrol them in school.