

Table 1.3.1: Pre-vaccination screening checklist

Pre-vaccination screening checklist

This checklist helps your doctor/nurse decide about vaccinating you or your child.

Please tell your doctor/nurse if the person about to be vaccinated:

- is unwell today
- has a disease which lowers immunity (eg. leukaemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS) or is having treatment which lowers immunity (eg. oral steroid medicines such as cortisone and prednisone, radiotherapy, chemotherapy)
- has had a severe reaction following any vaccine
- has *any* severe allergies (to anything)
- has had any vaccine in the past month
- has had an injection of immunoglobulin, or received any blood products or a whole blood transfusion within the past year
- is pregnant
- has a past history of Guillain-Barré syndrome
- was a preterm infant
- has a chronic illness
- has a bleeding disorder

A different vaccine schedule may be recommended if the person to be vaccinated:

- identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- does not have a functioning spleen
- is planning a pregnancy or anticipating parenthood
- is a parent, grandparent or carer of a newborn
- lives with someone who has a disease which lowers immunity (eg. leukaemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS), or lives with someone who is having treatment which lowers immunity (eg. oral steroid medicines such as cortisone and prednisone, radiotherapy, chemotherapy)

Note: Please ask your doctor/nurse questions about this information or any other matter relating to vaccination before the vaccines are given.

Before any vaccination takes place, the immunisation service provider will ask you:

- Did you understand the information provided to you about immunisation?
- Do you need more information to decide whether to proceed?
- Did you bring your/your child's vaccination record card with you?

It is important for you to receive a personal record of your or your child's injections. If you do not have a record, ask your immunisation service provider to give you one. Bring this record with you every time you or your child visit for vaccination. Make sure your doctor/nurse records all vaccinations on it.

Your child may need this record to enter childcare, preschool or school.

False contraindications to vaccination

Conditions listed in Table 1.3.4 below are not contraindications to vaccination. People with these conditions should be vaccinated with all recommended vaccines.

Table 1.3.4: False contraindications to vaccination

The following conditions are not contraindications to any of the vaccines in the National Immunisation Program schedule:

- mild illness without fever ($T < 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$),
- family history of any adverse events following immunisation,
- past history of convulsions,
- treatment with antibiotics,
- treatment with locally acting (inhaled or low-dose topical) steroids,
- replacement corticosteroids,
- asthma, eczema, atopy, hay fever or 'snuffles',
- previous pertussis-like illness, measles, rubella, mumps or meningococcal disease,
- prematurity (vaccination should not be postponed),
- history of neonatal jaundice,
- low weight in an otherwise healthy child,
- any neurological conditions including cerebral palsy and Down syndrome,
- contact with an infectious disease,
- child's mother is pregnant,
- child to be vaccinated is being breastfed,
- woman to be vaccinated is breastfeeding,
- recent or imminent surgery,
- poorly documented vaccination history.

1.3.5 Catch-up

Every opportunity should be taken to review an individual's vaccination history and, based on documentation, administer the appropriate vaccine(s). If the individual has not received vaccines scheduled in the National Immunisation Program appropriate for his/her age, plan and document a catch-up schedule and discuss this with the individual. The assessment of vaccination status should be based on the schedule for the State/Territory in which the individual is residing.

The objective of catch-up vaccination is to complete a course of vaccination and provide optimal protection as quickly as possible. The information and tables below will assist in planning a catch-up schedule. If the immunisation service provider is still uncertain about how to plan the catch-up schedule, expert advice should be sought (see Appendix 1, *Contact details for Australian, State and Territory Government health authorities and communicable disease control*).

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| | (08) 8226 7177 http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/ |
| Tasmania | (03) 6222 7724 or 1800 671 738 http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/immunisation/index.html |
| Victoria | 1300 882 008 http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation |
| Western Australia | (08) 9321 1312 |