

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register

Do you have children? And a busy lifestyle? Then chances are you may need a reminder about when your children are due for immunisation.

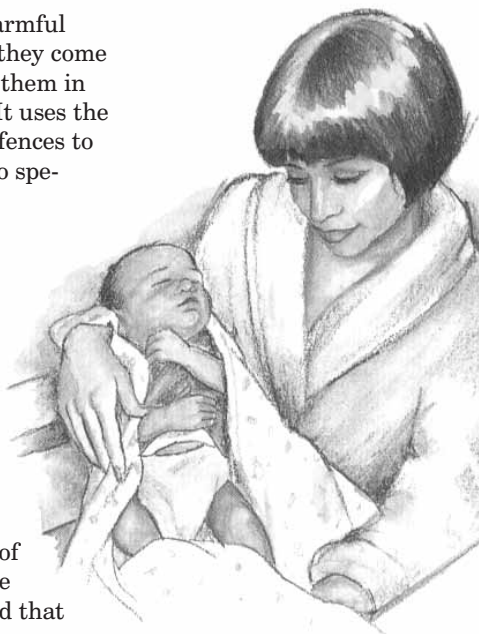
When your children start school or preschool, you will also need a record of the vaccinations they have received.

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register has been designed to benefit you, your children and others like you.

Immunising your children is one of the most important things you can do for them. Immunisation protects children (and

adults) against harmful infections before they come into contact with them in the community. It uses the body's natural defences to build resistance to specific infections.

If you delay having your children immunised, they may be placed at serious risk. Studies have shown that parents appreciate having a reminder system of when to immunise their children, and that



immunising on time helps reduce the chance of children getting infections.

The register records immunisations of children from birth to six years of age. It is administered by the Health Insurance Commission. Children enrolled with Medicare will automatically be included on the register.

Parents will be sent reminders prior to the date their child is due for immunisation and reminders if they are late in having their child immunised. The reminder system is not compulsory and parents may opt out if they choose.

Parents and their child's doctor will be able to phone the register to find out what vaccinations a child has received already, if they are not sure.

The register will also make it easier for some parents to get information for school entry immunisation certificates. Although immunisation is not compulsory, only those children with completed certificates will be allowed to attend school during an outbreak of certain vaccine preventable diseases.

The recommended vaccination schedule is shown in the table opposite. The register will make parents' task of remembering the schedule a lot easier. Providing the right immunisations at the right time protects our children.

For more information about immunising your child, phone the Public Health Unit or talk to your family doctor.

Recommended Vaccination Schedule

Age	Immunisation
2 months	Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis Oral polio vaccine Hib* (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> Type b) (a or b)
4 months	Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis Oral polio vaccine Hib (a or b)
6 months	Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis Oral polio vaccine Hib (a only)
12 months	Measles/mumps/rubella Hib (b only)
18 months	Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis Hib (a only)
4-5 years, or prior to school entry	Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis Oral polio vaccine
10-16 years	Measles/mumps/rubella Hepatitis B
one month later	Hepatitis B
6 months after first dose	Hepatitis B
15-19 years	Adult diphtheria/tetanus Oral polio vaccine



* Abbreviations Hib vaccines are: (a) HbOC (Hib Titer); or (b) PRP-OMP (PedvaxHIB)