

How can I find out more?

For more information go to

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-status-certificates

For translated versions of this document go to

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation>



**Translating and
interpreting service**
Call 131 450



Starting primary school?

Immunisation information
for parents enrolling a
child into primary school
in Victoria

Primary schools, early childhood services and immunisation providers can order free copies of this brochure online: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation>

Download and print English and translated versions, in A4 format: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation>

To receive this document in an accessible format email immunisation@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, June 2017.

Except where otherwise indicated, the images in this publication show models and illustrative settings only, and do not necessarily depict actual services, facilities or recipients of services.

ISBN 978-0-7311-7265-8 (Print)

Printed by Gunn & Taylor, Glen Waverley (1706034)



Health
and Human
Services

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 may 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.

The most common type of immunisation status certificate is an *Immunisation History Statement* from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

By law, you must provide an immunisation status certificate to the primary school when enrolling your child into prep or when going to a new primary school.

If your child has not received any immunisations, you must still provide a certificate, which states no vaccines have been given.

What is the certificate used for?

To keep children safe. In the event of a disease outbreak, unimmunised children can be quickly identified and excluded from school until the risk of infection has passed. For further information refer to the school exclusion table <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>>

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.

By law, all parents must provide an immunisation status certificate to enrol their child in primary school.

How do I obtain an immunisation status certificate?

You can request a certificate at any time from the Australian Immunisation Register

- Print an *Immunisation History Statement* from your myGov account
- Phone 1800 653 809
- Email air@humanservices.gov.au
- Visit a Medicare or Centrelink office.

If you think your child's *Immunisation History Statement* is incomplete or incorrect, discuss with your immunisation provider.

From your doctor or local council

An alternative to an *Immunisation History Statement* is a letter signed by a doctor or local council with the child's details and a list of all vaccines received and date given.

Homeopathy

Homeopathy is not a legally recognised form of immunisation and cannot be listed on an immunisation status certificate.