



Immunisation basics

VACCINES ARE SAFE

Before a vaccine is available in Australia, it is tested on thousands of people in clinical trials. It also passes strict safety testing. And all Australian immunisations are monitored to ensure they are safe.

WHEN TO IMMUNISE

For the best protection, vaccinations need to occur on time. 'On time' means on (or as close as possible to) the due date in accordance with the Queensland Immunisation Schedule. The schedule can be found at: qld.gov.au/vaccinationmatters

If you haven't had your recommended vaccinations talk to your GP or immunisation provider.

WHAT TO IMMUNISE AGAINST

In Australia, we immunise against: influenza, measles, whooping cough, meningococcal disease, human papillomavirus (HPV), diphtheria, hepatitis A and B, *haemophilus influenzae* type B, mumps, pneumococcal disease, polio, rotavirus, rubella, tetanus and chickenpox.

Many of these vaccines are free to eligible Queenslanders (however some health providers may charge for the visits).

IMMUNISATION HISTORY

Queenslanders may access their immunisation history through any of the following:

- by asking your GP or immunisation provider to print your immunisation history statement
- online via your MyGov account or through the Medicare plus app
- or by calling the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809 and asking them to send your immunisation history statement to you. This can take up to 14 days to arrive by post.


For more information

Talk to your GP or immunisation provider, call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or visit qld.gov.au/vaccinationmatters



GET VACCINATED

**PROTECT
YOURSELF
AND YOUR
COMMUNITY**

 Vaccination Matters



Queensland
Government

Why do we immunise?

Immunisation helps stop the spread of disease. It limits the impact of the disease and it saves around 3 million lives worldwide each year.

When a high proportion of the community is vaccinated against a disease, it has herd immunity. This means enough people are immunised to stop the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases to protect those who can't be vaccinated. For example, to stop the spread of measles, 95% of the community needs to be vaccinated against measles.

Immunisation is a safe and effective way of protecting you and your child against serious diseases. If you aren't vaccinated and you get a preventable disease, it could have serious complications. You could be left with a disability or it could even be fatal.

Some groups are particularly at risk from preventable diseases. This includes children under 5, pregnant women, people with certain medical conditions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and anyone over 65.



Where to get vaccinations

You can get vaccinations from several places:

- your GP or immunisation provider
- a council or community health clinic
- Aboriginal Medical Services
- school-based immunisation programs
- some workplaces
- some hospitals
- travel medicine clinics
- staff occupational health clinics
- aged care facilities
- pharmacy.

To find an immunisation provider near you:

- call 13 HEALTH (13 4325 84)
- use HealthDirect's free service finder
- call the National Immunisation Hotline on 1800 671 811.



NEW TO AUSTRALIA?

Vaccination is important for all children and adults entering Australia as migrants, refugees or those seeking asylum. If you don't have a documented history of your immunisation, you may see a doctor or health provider to get your vaccination status determined and updated with a catch-up schedule if necessary.



Tools and resources

VACCINATION MATTERS

The Queensland Health Vaccination Matters website includes information and resources for all Queenslanders, including specific information for pregnant women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Refugees or other humanitarian groups, as well as the latest immunisation news. Check it out at qld.gov.au/vaccinationmatters

THE IMMUNISATION PLANNER

A new feature of the website is the Immunisation Planner. This new tool is designed to help you generate a personalised schedule for your child or yourself, so that you can keep a record and be on-track with which vaccinations you'll need at each stage of life. You can find this at qld.gov.au/vaccinationmatters