

# Starting primary school?

Immunisation information for parents enrolling a child

## By law, your child must have an immunisation status certificate to enrol in primary school.

### 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 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.

By law, you must provide an immunisation status certificate to the primary school when enrolling your child.

If your child has not received any immunisations, you must still provide a certificate.

The school keeps a copy of the certificate so that, in the event of a disease outbreak, unimmunised children can be quickly identified and excluded from school until the risk of infection has passed.

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.

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

### How do I obtain an immunisation status certificate?

#### From the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register

- phone 1800 653 809 or
- email [acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au](mailto:acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au)
- [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online)
- visit your local Medicare Office.

The most common type of immunisation status certificate is a *Child History Statement* from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).

You will be sent this statement when your child turns five years old, however you can request a certificate at any time.

You should also contact ACIR if you:

- are moving or have recently moved, to ensure your contact details are up to date
- think your child's statement is incomplete or incorrect.

#### From your doctor or local council

If your child is not eligible for a Medicare card, then contact your doctor or local council immunisation service who will be able to assist you in obtaining an immunisation status certificate.

### How can I find out more?

For more information and for translated versions of this document go to [www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation)



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