



# Starting child care, pre-kindergarten or kindergarten

## Immunisation information for parents enrolling a child

Western Australia now has immunisation laws that will help to better protect our children and the wider community from vaccine-preventable diseases.

### Your child must be up-to-date

When you enrol your child in long day care, family day care, pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, you will need to provide your child's current Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) immunisation history statement, which shows your child is up-to-date with all the scheduled immunisations (according to the [National Immunisation Program](#)) for their age. This statement must be no more than two months old.

### What is an AIR immunisation history statement?

This is a statement from the AIR. It shows your child's immunisation status as either up-to-date or not up-to-date. It will also list other information such as all immunisations received by your child, if your child is on a catch-up schedule and any immunisations that are due or overdue.



### How do I get a copy of my child's AIR immunisation history statement?

A copy of your child's AIR immunisation history statement is posted to you when your child completes the childhood immunisation schedule. You can also get a copy of the statement at any time by:

- logging into Medicare online via MyGov ([my.gov.au](http://my.gov.au))
- using the Medicare Express Plus app
- visiting a Medicare or Centrelink office
- calling the AIR General Enquiries Line on 1800 653 809 to request a copy to be posted to you.

### Where can I get my child immunised?

Free vaccinations are available from your local immunisation provider including GP, community health centre, Aboriginal Medical Service, and the Central Immunisation Clinic located in West Perth.

It is important to keep your child's immunisation status up-to-date at all times in order to provide the best protection against serious vaccine-preventable diseases. Keeping your child's immunisation status up-to-date will also mean your child can access early education services, as well as family assistance payments provided by Centrelink.

## Translating and interpreting services

**Metro:** contact the Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control on 9222 8588 or 1300 62 32 92.

**Regions:** contact your local public health unit. Visit [healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E>Contact-details-for-population-public-health-units](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E>Contact-details-for-population-public-health-units)

## More information

### Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

Phone: 1800 653 809, to have an AIR statement posted

### Central Immunisation Clinic, West Perth

Phone: 9321 1312

### Your local immunisation provider

Contact your GP, community health centre, Aboriginal Medical Service

### Your local public health unit

[healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E>Contact-details-for-population-public-health-units](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E>Contact-details-for-population-public-health-units)

### Department of Health WA – Immunisation

[healthywa.wa.gov.au/Healthy-living/Immunisation](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Healthy-living/Immunisation)  
[immunisation@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@health.wa.gov.au)

### Australian Government – Immunisation

[health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation](http://health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation)

### healthdirect Australia

Phone: 1800 022 222

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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Situation	What to do
My child is enrolling into family day care and will commence pre-kindergarten the following year. Does my child's immunisation status need to be up-to-date in order to enrol?	<p>Yes, your child must be up-to-date to enrol into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• family day care</li> <li>• long day care</li> <li>• pre-kindergarten or kindergarten.</li> </ul>
My child applied to enrol in kindergarten before the new laws came in (i.e. before 22 July 2019). My child will commence kindergarten in 2021 or later. Do they need to be up-to-date?	Yes. The person in charge of a child care service or kindergarten program must not permit a child to enrol unless the child's AIR immunisation history statement states that the child is up-to-date.
My child is currently attending a child care service and is not fully immunised.	The immunisation laws only apply to new enrolments from 22 July 2019 onwards.
My child is fully vaccinated but their AIR immunisation history statement is missing vaccinations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact your immunisation provider and ask them to update your child's information on the AIR, or</li> <li>• Email a photo of your child's vaccination records along with your child's Medicare number and date of birth to your local public health unit (see over page for contact details), and request your child's AIR records to be updated.</li> </ul> <p>Once your child's records have been updated, you can then access an updated AIR immunisation history statement.</p>
My child has missed lots of vaccinations and may need a catch-up schedule.	<p>See your GP or immunisation provider to discuss a catch-up schedule. When your child starts on an approved catch-up schedule the AIR will be updated.</p> <p>Once your child's records have been updated, you can then access an updated AIR immunisation history statement showing your child is on an approved catch-up schedule.</p> <p>You must provide your child's AIR immunisation history statement, showing that your child is on an approved catch-up schedule, at enrolment, to the child care service or kindergarten for your child to be permitted to enrol.</p>
My child can't be vaccinated for medical reasons.	<p>If your child can't be fully immunised for medical reasons, you will need to visit your GP who may provide an AIR immunisation medical exemption. This will be recorded on the AIR, noting the vaccines your child cannot have for medical reasons.</p> <p>Children who have a valid medical exemption to vaccination or natural immunity will have an immunisation status of up-to-date on their AIR immunisation history statement.</p>
What if my child was vaccinated overseas?	<p>Overseas immunisation records must be verified and recorded in AIR by an Australian immunisation provider. This update to AIR may take a few weeks. Following the update to your child's AIR record, you can then get a copy of your child's updated AIR immunisation history statement.</p> <p>Children that are not registered with Medicare can still have an AIR record. Ask your immunisation provider.</p>
I am concerned about immunisation.	Talk to your GP or immunisation provider.