



# *Immunisation for your child*



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## WHAT IS IMMUNISATION?

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting children from serious disease. It not only helps protect individuals, it also protects the broader community by minimising the spread of disease.

Vaccines work by triggering the immune system to fight against certain diseases. If a vaccinated person comes in contact with these diseases, their immune system is able to respond more effectively, preventing the disease developing or greatly reducing its severity.

## IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE

The National Immunisation Program Schedule recommends certain vaccinations at certain times. These vaccines are available free of charge for all Australian children.

AGE	DISEASE	VACCINE BRAND
<b>CHILDHOOD VACCINES</b>		
<b>Birth</b> (given at maternity units)	<b>Hepatitis B</b>	<b>H-B-VAX II</b> (babies before 8 days of age)
<b>2 months</b> (all vaccines may be given as early as 6 weeks)	<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis</b> <b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B (Hib)</b> <b>Hepatitis B</b> <b>Polio</b>  <b>Pneumococcal</b> <b>Rotavirus</b>	} } <b>INFANRIX HEXA</b> }  <b>PREVENAR 13</b> <b>ROTARIX</b>
<b>4 months</b> (your child must be 4 months of age)	<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis</b> <b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B (Hib)</b> <b>Hepatitis B</b> <b>Polio</b>  <b>Pneumococcal</b> <b>Rotavirus</b>	} } <b>INFANRIX HEXA</b> }  <b>PREVENAR 13</b> <b>ROTARIX</b>
<b>6 months</b>	<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis</b> <b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B (Hib)</b> <b>Hepatitis B</b> <b>Polio</b>  <b>Pneumococcal</b>	} } <b>INFANRIX HEXA</b> }  <b>PREVENAR 13</b>

AGE	DISEASE	VACCINE BRAND
<b>CHILDHOOD VACCINES</b>		
12 months	Measles, Mumps, Rubella  <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B (Hib)Meningococcal C	PRIORIX  } MENITORIX }
18 months	Measles, Mumps, Rubella Varicella (Chicken pox)	} PRIORIX TETRA }
4 years (all vaccines may be given as early as 3½ years)	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio  Measles, Mumps, Rubella (to be given only if Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine was not given at 18 months)	INFANRIX-IPV  PRIORIX

## WHERE CAN YOU HAVE YOUR CHILD IMMUNISED?

You may choose to have your child *immunised* and to have a *complete health check* conducted at Dubbo Family Doctors. Current advice recommends that complete health checks be conducted at 2, 4, 6, 12 and 18 months, and 3-4 years of age to provide ongoing assessment of growth, hearing, vision, language, development and social skills.

Alternatively, child immunisations and health checks are available at Dubbo Early Childhood Health Clinic. Child immunisations (without health checks) are also available at Dubbo City Council's monthly immunisation clinics.

## IMMUNISATION AND FAMILY PAYMENTS

Some Government payments, such as the Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement, Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate, can only be paid for children who are up-to-date with immunisations, or have an appropriate exemption.

## ARE THERE ANY REASONS TO DELAY IMMUNISATION?

Children with minor coughs and colds without fever, or those receiving antibiotics in the recovery phase of an acute illness, can be immunised safely and effectively. Immunisation should only be postponed if a child is very unwell with a high fever (over 38.5°C). Immunisation should be arranged for when the child is well again (a week or two later). If in any doubt, ask your doctor or health clinic staff before delaying immunisation.

## **WHERE ARE IMMUNISATION RECORDS KEPT?**

Your immunisation provider will record all vaccines given in your child's Personal Health Record (Blue Book). It is important that you bring the Blue Book with you to all immunisation visits so that it can be filled out. A record will also be kept on file at Dubbo Family Doctors should immunisation be done here.

All immunisation records are also forwarded to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR). ACIR can be contacted on 1800 653 809 for information about the register or childhood immunisations.

## **REACTIONS TO IMMUNISATION**

After immunisations, some children might have a reaction. Most reactions occur within 48 hours of having the immunisation. Reactions can include feeling unwell, being irritable, having fever and feeling sore around the injection area. These reactions are usually mild and don't last very long.

If your child becomes obviously unwell, she is likely to have a different health problem – for example, a cold or other viral infection. It might still be a good idea to have him/her checked by a doctor.

Reactions don't usually last for more than 48 hours. The following steps might help to relieve your child's symptoms:

- Place a cold cloth on the injection site if it's red or swollen (don't place ice directly on the skin).
- If your child has a fever or seems in pain, some paracetamol or ibuprofen might help.
- If your child isn't eating as much as usual, offer some extra drinks (breastmilk, formula or water).
- Your child might need extra cuddling and comforting for a day or so.

