

Vaccination of staff working in Early Childhood Services¹



You should check that you have received all the recommended vaccines, and arrange to receive any missing vaccines from your GP, to protect yourself and the children in your care.

Why is vaccination important?

If you're not vaccinated or immune (previously had the disease) there's a chance you could catch a potentially serious infection like measles or whooping cough, and then pass it onto the children in your care who are too young to have had all their shots, or who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

Which vaccines are recommended for early childhood educators?²

Vaccine	Number of doses	Vaccine cost*
Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) if non-immune	2 doses (4 weeks apart)	Free for anyone born during or since 1966
Pertussis (whooping cough) included with diphtheria and tetanus	1 dose (every 10 years)	Free up to 19 years of age Free for pregnant women
Influenza	1 dose (annual)	Free for Aboriginal people Free for those with underlying health problems
Varicella (chicken pox) if non-immune	2 doses (4 weeks apart)	Free up to 19 years of age; not needed if you have had chicken pox infection
Hepatitis A	2 doses (6 months apart)	Not free*

* Vaccines purchased privately may be partially covered by private health insurance

How do I check if I've had the recommended vaccines?

You can request an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR):

- using your Medicare online account through myGov at <https://my.gov.au/> or
- using your Medicare Express Plus App at www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/express-plus-mobile-apps or
- calling the AIR General Enquiries Line on 1800 653 809

As not all vaccination records may be held by the AIR you can also check with your GP, or also with your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 (for records of vaccines given in high school since 2003).

What if I'm missing some of the vaccines?

If you're missing any of the recommended vaccines, please talk to your GP about arranging catch-up vaccination as soon as possible, particularly if you're planning travel overseas.

Where can I get more information?

More information is available in NSW Health's *Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit* www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Publications/immunisation-enrolment-toolkit.pdf (see p.13) and in the NHMRC's *Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* (5th Edition) www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/ch55.

¹ This includes occasional care, family day care, long day care, preschool and out of school hours care

² The National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommendations for staff working in in early childhood education and care services