Do you need immunisation?

Health

Health issues such as premature birth, asthma, diabetes, heart, lung, spleen or kidney conditions, will mean you can benefit from immunisation.

Age

At different ages you need protection from different diseases.

Lifestyle

Lifestyle choices like travelling overseas, sexual activity or smoking, will mean you can benefit from immunisation.

Occupation

Some jobs expose you to a greater risk of contact with diseases, for example, working in a hospital or daycare centre. This means you can benefit from immunisation.

PARENTS!

Look for immunisation consent booklets coming home from secondary school.

PARENTS!

Make sure your child’s immunisations are up to date before they start childcare, kindergarten or primary school.

PARENTS!

Some children have health issues needing extra vaccines.

Everyone’s HALO is different

• Pneumococcal
• Rotavirus

Birth

• Hepatitis B

2 months (from 6 weeks)

• Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough-hepatitis B-polio-Hib
• Pneumococcal
• Rotavirus

6 months

• Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough-hepatitis B-polio-Hib

4 months

• Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough-hepatitis B-polio-Hib
• Pneumococcal
• Rotavirus

6 months to under 5 years

• Influenza (annually)

At different ages you need protection from different diseases.

12 months

• Measles-mumps-rubella
• Meningococcal ACWY
• Pneumococcal

18 months

• Measles-mumps-rubella
• Chickenpox
• Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough
• Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

4 years

• Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough-polio

PARENTS!

Make sure your child’s immunisations are up to date before they start childcare, kindergarten or primary school.

Teenage years

• Human papillomavirus
• Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough
• Meningococcal ACWY

During pregnancy

• Influenza (any time when pregnant)
• Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough (from 20 weeks pregnant)

born since 1966

• Measles-mumps-rubella if unprotected

From 65 years

• Influenza (annually)
• Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis

From 70 years

• Shingles (up to 79 years to 2021)
• Pneumococcal

Additional vaccines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

• Pneumococcal
• Hepatitis B

Your immunisation provider reports all vaccines given to the Australian Immunisation Register, visit myGov or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.
Why immunise?
Immunisation is a proven and safe way to be protected against diseases that cause serious illness and sometimes death.

Every day immunisation saves lives and makes it possible for Victorians to live free from the illness and disability caused by many vaccine-preventable diseases.

By reducing the spread of disease, immunisation not only protects those people who have been immunised, but it also protects those in the community who may be unable to receive vaccines themselves.

Vaccine costs
The vaccines listed on the poster are provided free by the government to all children and adolescents up to 20 years of age, if they are age eligible for the vaccine, regardless of Medicare status. Adult vaccines are free to Medicare card holders, Australian citizens, refugees and asylum seekers and those with a permanent visa or have applied for such. You may still have to pay a consultation fee to your doctor or immunisation provider to give you the vaccine.

Vaccine side effects
Common side effects may occur soon after vaccination and last one to two days. Generally no treatment is required. If you have a fever, drink more water and do not overdress. Paracetamol can be taken for pain or fever (follow the label for correct use). Severe side effects, such as an allergic reaction, are very rare and usually happen soon after vaccination. To be safe, your doctor or immunisation provider will ask you to stay nearby for a minimum of 15 minutes after you are vaccinated.

Where do I get immunised?
Your doctor, local council or pharmacist may provide immunisation services.

You can use the "find a health service" search on the Better Health Channel website - simply select 'immunisation provider' from the drop-down list of service types and enter your postcode to view a list of immunisation providers near you.

More information

To receive this document in an accessible format email immunisation@dhhs.vic.gov.au

While the information contained in this publication has been researched, reviewed and presented with due care, the content is provided as a prompt to aid discussion of immunisation requirements with a doctor or qualified immunisation provider only. It is not intended as a substitute for advice of a doctor or qualified immunisation provider. All information contained in this publication is accurate at the time of publication.

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