

Do you need immunisation?



PARENTS!

Children with certain health issues may need extra vaccines

Birth

- Hepatitis B

2 months (from 6 weeks)

- Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough-hepatitis B-polio-*Haemophilus influenzae* type b (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

12 months

- Measles-mumps-rubella
- Meningococcal ACWY
- Pneumococcal

18 months

- Measles-mumps-rubella-chickenpox
- Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)

6 months to under 5 years

- Influenza (annually)

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)
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (28-36 weeks)

Born since 1966

- Measles-mumps-rubella if unprotected

From 65 years

- Influenza (annually)
- Shingles
- Pneumococcal
- COVID-19 (annually)

From 75 years

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- COVID-19 (every 6 months)

2 (from 6 weeks), 4 & 12 months

- Meningococcal B

From 6 months of age & over

- Pneumococcal (single dose at 6 months)
- Influenza (annually)

From 25 years

- Pneumococcal

From 50 years

- Shingles
- COVID-19 (annually)

From 60 years

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus

All ages

- Hepatitis B

Additional vaccines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



What vaccines you need depends on your **Health**, **Age**, **Lifestyle** and **Occupation**



Everyone's **HALO** is different

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.



Your immunisation provider reports all vaccines given to the Australian Immunisation Register. Visit myGov to access your immunisation records.

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 the 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 to eligible persons under the National Immunisation Program schedule www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule

The Victorian Government also funds the provision of some vaccines that are not included on the National Immunisation Program. 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.

More information

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/healthyliving/immunisation

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

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While the information contained in this publication has been researched, reviewed and presented with all 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.

Check your immunisation HALO

Not sure if you or someone you care for needs an immunisation?

What immunisations you need depends on your **Health, Age, Lifestyle, Occupation (HALO)**. You can use this brochure as a guide to talk to your doctor or immunisation provider.



Everyone's HALO is different



Better Health
Channel



VICTORIA
State
Government

Department
of Health

If you tick any of the boxes, you, or someone in your care, may need a vaccination. If you are not sure of your answer mark the box with a question mark. Remember, this is a conversation starter, not a diagnosis! Discuss your HALO with your doctor or immunisation provider.

The following vaccines may be recommended by your doctor or immunisation provider:

Health

- ☐ I want to avoid catching the flu (influenza) – influenza (annual)
- ☐ I want to avoid catching meningococcal disease – meningococcal ACWY, meningococcal B
- ☐ I have not had two doses of measles vaccine – measles
- ☐ I am pregnant – influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough
- ☐ I am planning to get pregnant – measles-mumps-rubella, chickenpox
- ☐ I have a chronic ongoing health issue – influenza, pneumococcal, meningococcal, respiratory syncytial virus
- ☐ I have no spleen or a problem with my spleen – influenza, pneumococcal, meningococcal, haemophilus influenzae type b
- ☐ I have had invasive pneumococcal disease – pneumococcal
- ☐ I have not had chickenpox or chickenpox vaccine – chickenpox
- ☐ I have complement deficiency or am receiving complement inhibitor treatment – meningococcal, shingles
- ☐ I live with a person who has Hepatitis B – hepatitis B
- ☐ I was born in a priority hepatitis B endemic country and arrived in Australia in the last 10 years – hepatitis B
(Priority countries include China, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Thailand, South Korea, Myanmar (Burma), Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Cambodia)
- ☐ I have Hepatitis B/C – hepatitis A, and/or hepatitis B
- ☐ I have HIV infection – influenza, pneumococcal, meningococcal, hepatitis B, shingles, respiratory syncytial virus
- ☐ I am, or care for, a person with developmental disabilities – influenza, hepatitis A, hepatitis B
- ☐ I have a BMI $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$ – influenza
- ☐ I am immunocompromised – influenza, pneumococcal, meningococcal, shingles, respiratory syncytial virus, COVID-19
- ☐ I have a cochlear implant or intracranial shunt – pneumococcal

Lifestyle

- ☐ I plan to travel overseas soon – a detailed travel consultation should be undertaken
- ☐ I smoke tobacco – influenza, pneumococcal
- ☐ I have, or will soon have, close contact with a newborn baby – diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough
- ☐ I have, or plan to have, a tattoo or body piercing – hepatitis B
- ☐ I am a sexually active gay, bisexual or other man who has sex with men – hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus, meningococcal, mpox
- ☐ I inject drugs – hepatitis A, hepatitis B
- ☐ I live or routinely work in certain local government areas – Japanese encephalitis

Age

- ☐ I was born since 1966 and have not had two measles-mumps-rubella vaccines – measles-mumps-rubella
- ☐ I am aged from 50 years – diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough
- ☐ I am aged from 60 years – shingles
- ☐ I am aged from 65 years – influenza, shingles, pneumococcal, COVID-19
- ☐ I am aged from 75 years – respiratory syncytial virus, COVID-19
- ☐ I identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person aged from 6 months of age and over – influenza, pneumococcal, hepatitis B
- ☐ I identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person aged from 25 years – pneumococcal
- ☐ I identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person aged from 50 years – shingles, COVID-19
- ☐ I identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person aged from 60 years – respiratory syncytial virus

Occupation

- ☐ I work with children – influenza, measles-mumps-rubella, chickenpox, diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough, hepatitis A
- ☐ I am a healthcare worker – influenza, hepatitis B, diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough, measles-mumps-rubella, chickenpox
- ☐ I work in an emergency service or essential community service – influenza, hepatitis B, diphtheria-tetanus +/- whooping cough, measles-mumps-rubella
- ☐ I work in a residential care facility – influenza, measles-mumps-rubella, chickenpox
- ☐ I care for, or live with, someone with reduced or impaired immunity – influenza
- ☐ I work in an abattoir, piggery or with farm animals or breed cats and dogs – influenza, Q-Fever, Japanese encephalitis
- ☐ I am a plumber or sewerage worker – hepatitis A, diphtheria-tetanus +/- whooping cough
- ☐ I am a sex industry worker or their partner – hepatitis A, hepatitis B, mpox
- ☐ I am a healthcare or humanitarian worker at risk of exposure to Mpox – mpox
- ☐ I may handle Australian bats – rabies
- ☐ I am exposed to blood and body fluids or human tissue at work – hepatitis B
- ☐ I am diagnostic laboratory worker or field surveillance worker handling specimens – Japanese encephalitis, mpox

Vaccines may be funded under the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#) or [Victorian Government programs](#). Recommended vaccines that are not funded may be purchased privately.

For more detailed information about vaccine recommendations, refer to [The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).