How can I find out more?

For more information search 'childhood immunisation' on **www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au**

For translated versions of this document go to **www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au** and search 'starting primary school'

Translating and interpreting service
Call 131 450

Primary schools, early childhood services and immunisation providers can order free copies of this brochure online: www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/order-resources

Download and print English and translated versions, in A4 format: search 'starting primary school' on www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au

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

Authored and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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ISBN 978-0-7311-7265-8 (Print)

Printed by Gunn + Taylor, Glen Waverley (1712020)

Starting primary school?

Immunisation information for parents enrolling a child into primary school in Victoria

VICTORIA State Government | Health and Human Services

Why immunise?

Children starting school are exposed to a large number of people and to a range of potentially dangerous diseases.

Immunisation is a proven and safe way to be protected against diseases that may cause serious illness and sometimes death.

Enrolling in primary school is a good time to check your child's immunisations are up to date.

What is an *Immunisation History Statement?*

It is a statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) that shows what vaccines your child has received.

By law, you must provide an *Immunisation History Statement* to the primary school when enrolling your child for the first time or when going to a new primary school.

If your child has not received any immunisations, you must still provide an *Immunisation History Statement,* which states no vaccines have been given.

What is the statement used for?

To keep children safe. In the event of a disease outbreak, unimmunised children can be quickly identified and excluded from school until the risk of infection has passed. For further information search 'school exclusion table' on www.health.vic.gov.au

If you do not provide an *Immunisation History Statement* to the school, your child may be excluded from school during a disease outbreak because their immunisation status will be unknown.

By law, all parents must provide an *Immunisation History Statement* to enrol their child in primary school.

How do I obtain an *Immunisation History Statement?*

The quickest way to get your child's statement is by using your Medicare online account through myGov or Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

You can also visit your local Medicare service centre or request for your child's statement to be posted to you by calling the AIR enquiries line on 1800 653 809. It can take 14 days to get your statement in the post.

If you think your child's *Immunisation History Statement* is incomplete or incorrect, contact your immunisation provider.