

# Immunisation and enrolling in early childhood services

Information for immunisation providers  
February 2018

## No Jab, No Play – changes to the Victorian law

In an effort to improve childhood immunisation rates, the Victorian Government introduced the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation on 1 January 2016. Under this legislation, before enrolling a child, early childhood services have to first obtain evidence that the child is up to date with all vaccinations that are due for their age, or that they are able to receive.

On 28 February 2018, the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation was amended so that an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) is the only form of documentation accepted for the purposes of enrolling a child in an early childhood education and care service.

Previous forms of documentation, for example a letter from a GP or local council, are no longer accepted.

## About required documentation

### Under 'No Jab, No Play' what documentation is required as evidence of up-to-date vaccination?

To have an [enrolment confirmed](#) for a child in long day care, kindergarten, family day care or occasional care, parents/carers have to provide the service with:

- a current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR); AND
- the statement must show that the child is up to date with all vaccinations that are due for their age, or that they are able to receive.

The Immunisation History Statement from the AIR lists the vaccines the child has received and, if applicable, which vaccines are due in the future and when. Medical exemption may also be listed, where applicable.

An Immunisation History Statement from the AIR is the only type of immunisation record accepted by early childhood and care services and must be provided within the two months prior to the child starting at the service to confirm enrolment.

## The role of immunisation providers

Immunisation providers are required to:

### Immunise according to the National Immunisation Program schedule

This may include developing a vaccine catch-up plan for children who are not up to date and administer overdue vaccines. Use the [online Immunisation Calculator](#) to plan vaccine catch-up for pre-school aged children

More information about childhood immunisation can be found on the [Health.Vic website](#).

### Provide prompt and accurate information to the AIR

Immunisation providers should take care to ensure that information provided to the AIR is correct and promptly provided. This may include reviewing and transcribing overseas immunisation records to the AIR in a timely manner.

Delays or inaccuracies in the information provided to the AIR by immunisation providers could result in parents having problems when enrolling a child in an early childhood education and care service.

### Support parents with serious concerns about vaccine safety

All immunisation providers play an important role in ensuring parents are provided with accurate and reputable information about vaccine safety.

Support parents with serious concerns about vaccine safety by referring them to reputable information, including SAEFVIC (Surveillance of Adverse Events Following Vaccination in the Community) who can help immunisation providers and parents with concerns about vaccine safety – [www.saeivic.org.au](http://www.saeivic.org.au) or phone 1300 882 924, option one. Telehealth is also available with this service.

The [Better Health Channel](#) also provides quality assured information online.

## Immunisation medical contraindication

In order to claim medical exemption from one or more immunisations for the purpose of enrolling into childcare and kindergarten, parents or carers will have to provide a current Immunisation History Statement from the AIR which states that the child has a vaccine exemption due to a medical contraindication or natural immunity to one or more vaccines.

The GP involved in the individual patient's care must complete an immunisation medical exemption form based on a case-by-case assessment of a child's medical history. Download the [immunisation medical exemption form](#) from the Commonwealth Department of Human Services website.

## Overseas vaccines

Children who were vaccinated overseas must have their vaccine records assessed and be offered catch-up vaccination as required. Record overseas vaccines to the AIR promptly and accurately by submitting the [AIR Immunisation History form](#).

Parents can request an Immunisation History Statement from the AIR to give to the service for the purpose of enrolment if the vaccines are up to date.

## About the 'No Jab, No Play' law

### What is the objective of the 'No Jab, No Play' law?

The purpose of the No Jab, No Play law is to increase immunisation rates for young children in the community. The legislation is designed to:

- provide a prompt regarding immunisation for parents/carers enrolling their child in early childhood education
- allow for children of families experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage to be able to access the lifelong benefits of early childhood education and care, while being supported to obtain vaccinations and/or required evidence of vaccination.

### What immunisations are required for children at childcare and kindergarten?

Under the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation, children are required to be up to date with all vaccinations that are due for their age, or that they are able to receive.

The [immunisation schedule for vaccines](#) outlines the vaccines available under the National Immunisation Program and when they should be received.

### Who does the 'No Jab, No Play' law impact and how?

The law applies to all early childhood education and care services<sup>1</sup> in Victoria providing:

- long day care
- kindergarten (including 3 and 4 year old kindergarten)
- occasional care
- family day care.

The law does not apply to:

- enrolment in primary or secondary school (however, please note an Immunisation History Statement from the AIR does need to be provided for enrolling in primary school, however there is currently no requirement for the statement to show the child is up to date with all immunisations)
- children attending an outside school hours care service (after school care, before school care, vacation care)
- enrolments of school children in long day care, family day care or occasional care
- casual occasional care services that offer care of no more than two hours per day and no more than six hours per week (for example, crèches at gyms and shopping centres)
- services primarily providing instruction on particular activities (for example, sport, dance or music)
- services primarily provided or shared by family members of the children (and a family member is readily available and retains responsibility for the child).

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- a current Immunisation History Statement from the AIR; AND
- the statement must show that the child is up to date with all vaccinations that are due for their age, or that they are able to receive.

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<sup>1</sup> approved under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* and licensed under the *Children's Services Act 1996*

## More information

### Requesting an Immunisation History Statement

Printed copies of an Immunisation History Statement are available via an individual's [myGov account](#) or:

- Call the AIR on phone 1800 653 809
- visit a Medicare or Centrelink office.

Families who do not hold a Medicare card must call the AIR to request an Immunisation History Statement.

A Translating and Interpreting Service is available by calling 131 450, Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:45pm.

### Access this factsheet online

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children/no-jab-no-play/immunisation-providers>

### View the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation

View the legislation online [at Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents](#). (Please note, due to frequent changes to this site, a direct link to the Bill cannot be provided. Go to the 'Archive' link and look under '2015' for the [Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment \(No Jab, No Play\) Bill 2015](#))

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