

# Early childhood services and immunisation requirements

## What is changing?

On 1 July 2019, changes to the [South Australian Public Health Act 2011](#) (the Act) came into effect, allowing the Chief Public Health Officer to exclude susceptible children from early childhood services in the event of an outbreak or possible outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease.

From **1 January 2020**, the Act requires early childhood services to keep a copy of all immunisation records provided for each child enrolled in or attending that service and for the period of the child's enrolment.

This is because a rapid response is required to prevent the spread of a vaccine preventable disease in an early childhood service, which is why services need to have current immunisation records on site and able to be provided to the Chief Public Health Officer within 24 hours when requested.

These are South Australian legislation changes and are not related to the Commonwealth government *No Jab No Pay* legislation.

## What is an early childhood service?

For the purposes of this legislation an early childhood service is a service that provides education and/or care of children under the age of 6 years including childcare, family day care, pre-school, kindergarten and early learning centres, including those early childhood services provided at primary school sites.

Services such as babysitting, playgroups, childminding or services comprising out of school care are excluded from the legislation.

## Who must supply immunisation records?

Parents or legal guardians must supply approved immunisation records to the early childhood service educating and caring for their child.

## What does this mean for me?

Starting from 1 January 2020, you will be asked by your child's early childhood service to provide current copies of your child's immunisation record.

## What is an approved immunisation record?

For most children, an approved immunisation record will be an extract (downloaded copy) from the Australian Immunisation Register called an immunisation history statement. An immunisation history statement is a record of immunisations given and recorded in the Australian Immunisation Register, as well as any approved exemptions. It contains a statement as to whether or not your child is up-to-date with their immunisations.

In a few special circumstances, a certificate from the Chief Public Health Officer or a document approved by the Chief Public Health Officer will be required.

## Is an immunisation record in my child's Blue Book or letter from my doctor acceptable?

No. Only an immunisation history statement from the Australian Immunisation Register, or a certificate or document approved by the Chief Public Health Officer, is acceptable.

## Parent and carers – Frequently Asked Questions

### What if my child was born overseas and I only have an overseas record – how do I get their immunisation records accepted?

Overseas immunisation records will **not be** accepted by the early childhood service as they are not an approved record. Immunisation records from overseas must be entered onto the Australian Immunisation Register by your doctor/immunisation provider.

Once your child's immunisation records have been updated on the Australian Immunisation Register, you can access an immunisation history statement.

For immunisation records that require translation complete the Australian Government, [Free Translation Services application](#). The Free Translating Service can be used by most permanent and some temporary residents. All fields must be completed in English. If you require an interpreter to complete the application, contact the National Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

For those that are not eligible for the Free Translating Service, there are a number of accredited translator or interpreter services available. Visit the [National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters](#) webpage to locate a service.

You will need to take a copy of your translated copy of your child's immunisation records to your immunisation provider.

### How often do I have to provide an approved immunisation record?

Immunisation records must be provided:

- > at the time of the child's enrolment at the time of attending the service
- > after the child turns 7 months of age but before the child turns 9 months of age
- > after the child turns 13 months of age but before the child turns 15 months of age
- > after the child turns 19 months of age but before the child turns 21 months of age
- > after the child turns 4 years and 2 months of age but before child turns 4 years 8 months of age.

Check with your early childhood service to see if you need to provide an electronic or printed copy of your child's immunisation record.

### What will the early childhood service do with this information?

Early childhood services are required to keep immunisation records provided for each child in their care. It is important that these records are current. If there is a risk of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease in the service, staff may be asked to provide current information on each child's vaccination status to the Chief Public Health Officer (or delegate), who will then determine which if any children need to be excluded from the service because they are at risk of getting the vaccine preventable disease.

### Do I have to provide my child's immunisation history statement?

Yes. Under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* Part 12A, parents/legal guardians are legally required to provide immunisation records and early childhood services are legally required to ask for, and keep, copies of your child's records.

### If I have questions about my child's immunisation history statement, who should I ask?

It is recommended that you speak with your immunisation provider, such as your local doctor or local council immunisation clinic.

Early childhood services are only responsible for collecting immunisation records and are not required to interpret the records.

### How do I get an immunisation history statement?

You can get your immunisation history statement straight away using either:

- > Your [Medicare online account](#) through [myGov](#)
- > [Express Plus Medicare mobile app](#) (if already set up with MyGov)

You may also call the **Australian Immunisation Register** general enquiries line on 1800 653 809 and request a copy of your child's immunisation history statement to be posted to you.

## Parent and carers – Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a current immunisation record?

An immunisation record provided to the early childhood service must be downloaded from the Australian Immunisation Register no earlier than one month prior to a child's enrolment or within the specified age ranges.

Any documentation approved by the Chief Public Health Officer will include specific date/s for which the record is valid.

### How can I tell if the immunisation record is current?

The early childhood service will check the date the immunisation history statement was downloaded which is the "as at" date on the statement.

See example below highlighting details of currency of date.

  
Australian Government  
Department of Human Services  
**medicare**

**Immunisation history statement**

**As at:** 01 November 2019  
**For:**  
**Date of birth:** 01 November 2018  
**Immunisation status:** up to date

Schedule	Date given	Immunisation	Brand name given
2 months	03 Jan 2019	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hib Hepatitis B Polio Pneumococcal Rotavirus	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar 13 Rotarix
4 months	18 Mar 2019	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hib Hepatitis B Polio Pneumococcal Rotavirus	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar 13 Rotarix
6 months	23 May 2019	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hib Hepatitis B Polio	Infanrix Hexa

Next immunisation/s due	Date due
Measles Mumps Rubella	01 Nov 2019
Meningococcal ACWY	01 Nov 2019
Pneumococcal	01 Nov 2019

**Notice/s**

**Currency of immunisation record**  
– the same day the statement was downloaded from AIR

### More information

- > Australian Immunisation Register general enquiries line - 1800 653 809
- > [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au)
- > [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation)

For more information

**Immunisation Section**  
**Communicable Disease Control Branch**  
**11 Hindmarsh Square**  
**Adelaide SA 5000**  
**Telephone: 1300 232 272**  
**[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation)**  
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