

Information for parents - providing your child's immunisation record to their school

What sort of immunisation record do I need?

There are 3 main types of immunisation records available. Any one of these is acceptable.

NT immunisation certificate:

This is a Department of Health and Families statement on whether or not your child is up to date with all routine vaccinations. It is available from the NT Immunisation Helpdesk by phoning (08) 8922 8893 (Top End) or (08) 8951 6928 (Central Australia).

Australian Immunisation Childhood Register (ACIR) History Statement:

This is sent to your child's Medicare address automatically when the 4 year old immunisations are given or when your child turns 5, whichever comes first. If your child is up to date the ACIR certificate will include the statement "This child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age".

Immunisation hand held record or baby book:

This does not contain any statement about whether or not your child has completed all routine immunisations. If you provide the school with your child's immunisation hand held record you must be sure that all your child's immunisation have been entered onto the record.

Why do I need to supply the school with my child's immunisation record?

Your child's immunisation record will be stored for use in the case of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease. If this situation occurs and your child has not supplied a record or is not up to date with his/her immunisations, they may be excluded from school. This is done to prevent a child with an unknown or incomplete vaccination status from acquiring the disease and to prevent him/her from passing the disease onto others.

What does the school do with my child's immunisation record and who has access to it?

If you have provided an **NT immunisation certificate** or an **ACIR history statement**, the school will electronically record whether or not your child's immunisations are up to date. If you have provided a **hand held record** the school will electronically record that your child's immunisation status is 'unknown', as school staff are not trained to ascertain whether or not a child's immunisations are up to date. The paper copy of the immunisation record will be stored in your child's secure school file. This information can only be accessed by the parent/guardian of the child, the school nurse and the school administrative and teaching staff. Consent is requested from the parent/guardian on the Student Enrolment Form. In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease and where a child is recorded as either having an unknown or an incomplete vaccination record a public health doctor or nurse from the Centre for Disease Control may also access the paper copy.

What if I am against vaccination or my child has a medical reason for not being vaccinated?

It is not a legal requirement for your child to be vaccinated to attend school in Australia. If you choose to conscientiously object or there is an underlying medical contraindication to immunisation please discuss these issues with your immunisation provider or GP. These issues will be recorded on ACIR and the NT immunisation certificate. You should take a copy of the certificate to the school for their records.

Where can I go to get my child's immunisations given?

Any community care/health centre in the NT can provide you with all scheduled vaccinations free of charge and will assist you in working out what your child requires to complete his/her vaccinations. Some GP practices provide an immunisation service however they may charge a consultation fee.

Where can I find information and get a copy of my child's immunisation history?

For all vaccine queries and to get a copy of your child's immunisation certificate call the NT Immunisation Helpdesk on (08) 8922 8893 (Top End) and (08) 8951 6928 (local Alice Springs number). An ACIR history statement can be obtained by phoning 1800 653 809.

