



STRENGTHENING IMMUNISATION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

From 1 January 2019, new immunisation regulations under the Public Health Act 2016 (WA) have taken effect. The regulations will help the Department of Health take steps to reduce the prevalence of vaccine preventable infectious diseases among Western Australian children and the wider community.

These changes mean child care services, kindergartens and schools, are now legally obliged to share immunisation related data of children attending their facility with the Department of Health's Chief Health Officer, upon request.

The statement must be dated within two months prior to enrolment. Parents are automatically sent an AIR Immunisation History Statement when their child turns 18 months of age and again at five years of age, or after their child has completed the four-year old vaccination schedule, whichever comes first. No other form of documentation is acceptable e.g. purple book, overseas immunisation records.

Child care services, kindergartens and schools are now required to:

- take reasonable steps to collect each child's AIR Immunisation History Statement upon application for enrolment
- report the immunisation status of any child or children enrolled at the child care service, kindergarten or school, when requested by the Chief Health Officer
- report additional information of under vaccinated children, when requested by the Chief Health Officer. What do the changes mean to parents/guardians?

Parents are legally obliged to share their child's Immunisation with their child care service:

Under the new legislation, child care services, kindergartens and schools may be directed by the Department of Health's Chief Health Officer to:

- report any enrolled children who have, or are reasonably suspected to have contracted a vaccine preventable notifiable infectious disease
- not permit any child to attend the facility who does not have immunity against a vaccine preventable notifiable infectious disease
- close the whole or part of their facility in order to limit or prevent the spread of a vaccine preventable notifiable infectious disease.

This means that Parents/ guardians must provide their child's Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement at enrolment in to a child care service, kindergarten and school.

General questions:

How does this affect me at YMCA ELC's?

This means we are unable to accept any other form of documentation for immunisation history other than the AIR (Australian Immunisation Record) and you are legally obliged to provide it to us with your enrolment or re-enrolment

How do I access my child's AIR Immunisation History Statement?

You can access your child's AIR Immunisation History Statement at any time through MyGov, by logging in to your Medicare online account or Medicare Express Plus App, or through Visiting a Medicare or Centrelink office

You can also call the AIR General Enquiries Line on 1800 653 809 for your statement to be posted. If you do not hold a Medicare card you must call the AIR on 1800 653 809 to request an Immunisation History Statement.

My child is 'not up to date' with their vaccinations. What do I need to do?

Consult your GP or local immunisation service, or visit: Healthy WA to find a local immunisation clinic. Your GP or local government immunisation service will need to start giving the immunisations that are overdue, and inform the AIR.

My child has been fully vaccinated but their AIR Immunisation History Statement is not up to date. What do I need to do?

If your child's AIR data is incomplete or incorrect, contact your immunisation provider and ask them to correct the details on the AIR. Alternatively, you can seek advice by emailing immunisation@health.wa.gov.au Updates to AIR records may take up to a few weeks to process. If the missing immunisations were given more than a month ago, contact your immunisation provider and ask them to update the information on the AIR. If the name or date of birth details are incorrect on the AIR, call the Medicare general enquiries line on 132 011 and ask to have these updated.

My child was vaccinated overseas. What do I need to do?

Overseas immunisation records must be verified before they can be accepted. To verify immunisation administered overseas, an Australian immunisation provider must update the child's immunisation record in the AIR. Following the update, parents can then access an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement. If translating services are required, it is recommended local immunisation providers contact their local WA Public Health Unit (HealthyWA) to organise these documents to be translated; or overseas immunisation records can be sent to the Department of Social Services who provide a free document translating service for Australian citizens and immigrants.

Do I still have a choice to vaccinate my child?

Yes. Vaccination is not compulsory and you will continue to have the choice whether or not to vaccinate your child. If you decide not to vaccinate your child, you still need to provide your AIR Immunisation History Statement on enrolment at a child care service, kindergarten or school. Governments have a responsibility to make decisions that balance the best possible community health outcomes with individual choices. In addition, your Child Care Subsidy (CCS) may be compromised if you choose not to vaccinate your child. To assist you in understanding your eligibility to CCS, please speak with Centrelink directly.

For further information please visit:

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/Where-can-I-get-my-vaccination

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Childhood-immunisation-schedule