

SCHOOL ENTRY IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATE

It is a legal requirement that a parent/guardian present an immunisation status certificate on enrolment to the primary school that the child will attend. The school entry immunisation certificate is a reminder for parents to ensure that their child is adequately protected against many infectious diseases before attending school. A record of a child's immunisation status is also invaluable in the event of a vaccine preventable disease outbreak in a school situation where it is imperative that children are quickly identified as being protected/not protected against a disease. Previously local councils were solely responsible for issuing parents with a school entry immunisation certificate. The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register now issues a Child History Statement that can act as a school entry immunisation certificate in Victoria. The Child History Statement is only valid as a school entry immunisation certificate if it contains the wording: **"this child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age"** at the bottom of the statement. The valid Child History Statement that can act as a school entry immunisation certificate will be automatically posted out to parents after their child has received the four-year-old immunisations and are fully immunised. This can then be presented to the school on enrolment to primary school. The following information in a question and answer type format is to assist with enquiries about the school entry immunisation certificate process in Victoria. Please contact the Immunisation Program on 1300 882 008 if you wish to discuss this program further.

Immunisation Program:-

Q. Who is legally able to provide me with a school entry immunisation certificate?

A. School entry immunisation certificates can only be obtained from 2 sources:

- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
- Local Council

Q. When will I receive my child's school entry immunisation certificate?

A. A parent will automatically receive a history statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) after their child has completed the **4-year-old** vaccine schedule and has completed all childhood immunisations required. It should state at the bottom of the page **"This child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age."** If it does, this history statement becomes a school entry immunisation certificate.

Q. What will the school entry immunisation certificate from ACIR look like?

A. The school entry immunisation certificate will look like a regular child history statement that parents receive when their child is 1 and 2 years of age. However it will include at the bottom of the page the phrase **"this child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age."** It is only a valid school entry immunisation certificate if this appears on the child history statement.

Q. What happens if my child is not fully up-to-date with immunisations and requires an immunisation certificate on primary school enrolment?

A. Contact your local council immunisation provider or doctor to complete your immunisations. Your immunisation provider will then update your records with the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) and ACIR will post the immunisation certificate to you. The immunisation certificate will only be valid if at the bottom of the page the statement "this child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age" appears.

Q. What happens if my child cannot be immunised for medical reasons?

A. Obtain a medical contraindication form from your local council or from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) website

(<http://www.hic.gov.au/providers/forms/acir.htm> and scroll down page to

medical contraindication form). Complete the form and return it to your local government immunisation provider who will issue you with an immunisation certificate for school enrolment.

Q. What if I object to my child being immunised?

A. Obtain a statutory declaration form from your local council or newsagency. Complete the form and return it to your local council immunisation provider who will issue you with an immunisation certificate for school enrolment.

Q. What happens if my child is fully immunised but hasn't received an immunisation certificate from ACIR?

A. Allow 1 month for the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) to process the information and post the immunisation certificate. If you still have not received the immunisation certificate after that, contact ACIR on 1800 653 809 to make sure that:

- postal address is correct

- your immunisation provider has sent the relevant immunisation data to ACIR

If your immunisation provider has not sent data to ACIR, contact that provider as soon as possible to ensure data is sent up to ACIR. The immunisation certificate will then be issued automatically.

Q. What do I do if I receive a reminder from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register stating that my child is overdue for four-year-old immunisation?

A. Contact your local immunisation provider (local council or GP) to arrange to complete immunisations for your

child. Your local immunisation provider will update your records at ACIR and an immunisation certificate will then be automatically posted out to you by ACIR.

Q. What happens if my child was immunised overseas?

A. The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register now accepts immunisation documentation from overseas. Take

your immunisation documentation to your local council immunisation provider or doctor and request that this be sent to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register. (Providers will need to fill out an IMMU-13 ACIR Immunisation History form and send to ACIR.)

Q. What happens if my child was immunised overseas but I have no documentation?

A. Complete a statutory declaration form (available from your local council immunisation provider or newsagency). Return the completed form to your local council immunisation provider who will provide you with an immunisation certificate.

Q. What happens if I lose my child's immunisation certificate before school enrolment?

A. Contact the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) on 1800 653 809 to issue you with another copy of the immunisation certificate.

Q. What happens if my child moves schools?

A. It is the parent/guardian(s) responsibility to ensure that the immunisation certificate is transferred from one school to the other. A new school entry immunisation certificate is not required to be issued, the existing certificate should be transferred to the new school the child will be attending.

Q. What happens if I lose my child's school certificate when moving schools and I cannot obtain another one from ACIR as my child is over the age of 7?

A. Take your Yellow Child Health Record booklet with completed immunisation documentation to your local council

who will issue you with a school entry immunisation certificate.

Q. What if my child is not going to school until he/she is six years of age?

A. Children now need to be immunised at four years of age. These immunisations should not be delayed in order to

ensure that children are adequately protected against infectious diseases such as measles before attending

school. Parents should store the school entry immunisation certificate in the Yellow Child Health Record booklet

for safe keeping until it is required on enrolment to primary school.