

If someone is sick should they still have their vaccination?

Anyone with a mild illness or a slight temperature or who is on antibiotics and recovering from an illness, is OK to have vaccinations.

Anyone with a high temperature or a major illness should postpone vaccinations until they are feeling better.

If your kid has a long term illness you should speak to your doctor about their vaccinations.

Are there any side effects from vaccines?

After a vaccination a person might have some redness, swelling and soreness at the site the vaccine was given. Some people may get a fever. Mostly this does not last very long and can be treated.

You should feel better 1-2 days after an injection.

Your kid might be a bit unsettled or unhappy after their vaccinations.

You should remain at the doctors or clinic for 15 minutes after the vaccine is given, in case of a severe reaction.

What can I do to stop any discomfort after vaccination?

Paracetamol can be given to ease any discomfort and fever. Doses should be given following the instructions on the pack.

If your kid is hot, do not put on lots of clothes or blankets.

Give extra fluids to drink.

You can put a cold wet cloth on the injection site.

If the discomfort lasts for more than 2 days, fever is high and not responding to paracetamol or if you are worried at all you should see your doctor.

If you have any other questions about vaccinations talk to your doctor or local AMS or you can call the Immunisation team at the Public Health Unit
4734 2022 at Penrith
9840 3603 at Parramatta.

Don't forget to identify as Aboriginal when you visit your GP

Common Questions and Answers about Immunisation



How does vaccination work?

Vaccination is the process that makes your body think it has an infection without causing the symptoms of the infection to make you sick.

This gives your body a 'memory' to fight off the real infection if you are in contact with it.

How are vaccines given?

Adults and children over 12 months have vaccinations in their upper arms, children under 12 months have vaccines in their thigh area. Babies are also given vaccine drops in their mouths at 2 and 4 months.

Is vaccination compulsory?

No vaccination is not compulsory in Australia.

If a child is not vaccinated against a disease and there is a case of the disease at the child care centre or school, the child may be made to stay home until it is OK for them to return. Being up to date with immunisations is a requirement for childcare enrolment.

How safe are vaccines?

All vaccines in Australia are tested to make sure they are safe and good quality before they are allowed to be used.

Where can I get myself and my family vaccinated?

Your family doctor or local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) can provide vaccinations for your family.

Blacktown and Holroyd Councils and some community health centres in western Sydney also provide childhood vaccinations.

When should kids have their vaccinations?

Kids need to be vaccinated at these ages:

Birth, 6-8 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 1 year
18 months and 3½-4 years.

They also are offered vaccines in Year 7 at school.

If I miss out on some vaccines do I have to start all over again?

No, if you miss doses your provider can continue on with the missed doses.

It is never too late to catch up vaccines. If you or your kids have missed any or some vaccines, now is a good time to start.

Should my child be vaccinated if I am pregnant?

There is no problem with giving routine vaccinations to children while the mum is pregnant, as this will reduce the risk of spreading disease to pregnant women.

Can I have the flu vaccine if I'm pregnant?

Yes, flu vaccine is safe for pregnant women. It also protects the newborn baby from flu.

Do older people need to be vaccinated?

Yes, for many Aboriginal people, pneumonia and influenza cause a lot of illness and deaths.

Vaccines are available for these 2 diseases. The Influenza vaccine is free for all Aboriginal people from 15 years of age.

The Pneumococcal vaccine is free for people from 15 years if they are in the high risk groups (Smoking, chronic disease, diabetes and alcohol use).