

## THE BEST AVAILABLE PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN 0 – 5



Unimmunised children face a higher risk of contracting life-threatening, vaccine-preventable diseases.

To be fully protected, children require a full course (often more than 1 dose) of vaccines at the ages outlined in the National Immunisation Program, Queensland Schedule. This will help ensure children are building their own protective antibodies and immunity against diseases.

Babies are particularly vulnerable because a mother's antibodies provide only temporary protection to certain diseases.



## ON-TIME VACCINATION MATTERS



For the best protection, vaccinations need to occur on time. 'On time' means on, or as close as possible to, the due date in accordance with the National Immunisation Program, Queensland Schedule.

- Kids aren't fully protected if their vaccinations are overdue
- If your child has missed any vaccinations, a catch-up schedule can be developed with your GP or immunisation provider.

## GET YOUR FREE VACCINES

Make an appointment today:

- With your GP (please note: your GP may charge a consultation fee but the vaccines will be free)
- Via some local councils and child health centres (ring your local council for details, some offer vaccination clinics for free).

DIFFERENT VACCINES ARE RECOMMENDED FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE. ADDITIONAL VACCINES ARE PROVIDED FREE FOR ELIGIBLE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY ARE AT HIGHER RISK OF SOME DISEASES.

## FIND OUT MORE

For more information ask your GP, visit [vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au](http://vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au) or call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84). Telephone interpreter service: 13 14 50.

## NO ONE PROTECTS THEM LIKE YOU CAN.



VACCINATION MATTERS.

## SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE PROTECTION



Immunisation is the best way to protect your child, and others in our community, from preventable diseases, hospitalisation and even death. Vaccine-preventable diseases such as whooping cough and measles are still common in many countries and occur in Queensland.

Vaccines prompt your immune system to fight if it is exposed to the disease in the future, which stops them from developing or reduces their severity.

**To get the best protection, every vaccination should happen on its due date according to the National Immunisation Program, Queensland Schedule. All vaccines outlined in the schedule are free and safe.**

These immunisations not only protect your own family, but also others by helping to control serious diseases in our community.

## TESTED AND SAFE



**Vaccines are rigorously tested in thousands of people as a part of large clinical trials.**

In Australia, every vaccine must pass stringent safety testing before the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) will register it for use.

Once registered, the TGA coordinates very robust surveillance to detect any possible safety issues with the vaccine.

## VACCINATION BEGINS WITH YOU



Babies and young children are more vulnerable to serious and life-threatening diseases so, it's important to protect them as early as possible.

Vaccinations for whooping cough and influenza during pregnancy are the most effective way to protect mum and baby from serious life-threatening diseases. About two weeks after vaccination, the mother develops immunity and passes protective antibodies on to the baby.

## DURING PREGNANCY



### WHOOPING COUGH PREGNANCY VACCINATION

The free whooping cough vaccine is recommended during the third trimester of each pregnancy, preferably between 20 and 32 weeks. It is a combined diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccination. The inactivated vaccine is safe for pregnant women and their babies and will help protect newborns until they are old enough to be vaccinated from six weeks of age.

### THE FLU PREGNANCY VACCINATION

The free influenza vaccine is safe for pregnant women and their babies any time during pregnancy. Vaccination not only provides ongoing protection to mum against the current season's flu, but also provides ongoing protection to baby after birth, for their first few months of life.

It is recommended during flu season.

Influenza vaccine can be given at the same time as the whooping cough vaccine, but shouldn't be delayed to have both at the same time.



## SERIOUS ADVERSE REACTIONS ARE RARE



Common reactions are localised pain, redness and swelling at the injection site and low-grade fever. Serious reactions such as severe allergic reactions are extremely rare.

If any reaction occurs that you consider serious or unexpected, seek medical advice from your doctor or immunisation provider. This helps the TGA to monitor for any vaccine safety issues.

### WHAT IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL?

Children can usually get vaccinated even if they have a mild illness like a cold, ear ache, mild fever or diarrhoea. Valid reasons not to immunise children are rare, but if you are unsure, ask your doctor or immunisation provider.

If your child has ever had an allergic reaction or is undergoing treatment that suppresses the immune system, such as chemotherapy, check with your doctor before immunisation.

## GET THE FACTS



### CHECK YOUR SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Ensure your decisions about immunisation are based on scientific fact. The internet, well-meaning friends and relatives may not always be factually correct and can sometimes provide misguided and misleading (yet compelling) information.

Your best source of information about immunisation is your doctor or immunisation provider, or visit [vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au](http://vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au)

