

PRODA and the Australian Immunisation Register

From 31 August 2019, medical practitioners, midwives and nurse practitioners can only access the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) using PRODA (Provider Digital Access).



PRODA provides secure access to government online services using an online authentication system. Go to: [PRODA You Need to Know](#) for more information.

The Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) will continue to provide updated information about these changes. Visit their website at: [Accessing the AIR using HPOS](#)

Need to know:

1. If you have a Medicare provider number, you are automatically recognised as a vaccination provider on AIR.
2. Providers without a Medicare provider number and who do not currently have an authentication file can apply to become a recognised vaccination provider with AIR. Use the 'Application to register as a vaccination provider with the Australian Immunisation Register (IM004)' form (see page 3 for sample). **You must apply before 30 September 2019.**
3. **Medical practices** can register for AIR access by completing the IM004 form and submitting it directly to AIR (via post or email).
4. **Other providers** need to email the form to the Queensland Health Immunisation Program at QHIP-ADMIN@health.qld.gov.au. The application will be reviewed and submitted to AIR. Once approved by AIR, information and access details will be sent to you.
5. **If you have a Medicare provider number and have not registered yet for PRODA, please register to ensure continued access to AIR.**
6. If you are an immunisation provider or a medical practice already using an AIR registration number (not a Medicare provider number) and an authentication file to access AIR, your authentication file will remain active until January 2020. DHS will provide advice about future changes.

Confused? Troubleshoot PRODA or AIR issues by contacting:

- AIR Internet Helpdesk by telephone, 1300 650 039 or email air@humanservices.gov.au
- PRODA by telephone, 1800 700 199 or email proda@humanservices.gov.au



Did you know? AIR has online education modules about how to use the Register. Topics include:

- Registering for access
- Submitting information
- Overseas immunisations

Visit:

<http://medicareaust.com/PROGRAMS/AIRP01/index.html>

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Recommendations for infants born to women known to be hepatitis B surface antigen positive

The [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) recommends that all newborns of women known to be hepatitis B surface antigen positive receive:

- a birth dose of monovalent hepatitis B vaccine* **and**
- hepatitis B immunoglobulin (HBIG).

The HBIG should be given within 12 hours of birth. Hepatitis B vaccine can be given at the same time preferably in separate thighs.

For details about doses and their administration consult the online Australian Immunisation Handbook:

<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/recommendations/infants-born-to-mothers-who-are-hepatitis-b-surface-antigen-positive-are-recommended>.

Infants born to women known to be hepatitis B surface antigen positive should have serology between 3 to 12 months after completion of the primary hepatitis B vaccination course to check their level of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and anti-HBs (antibody to HBsAg). Serological testing should not be done before the infant is nine months of age to avoid detecting anti-HBs from the birth dose of HBIG.

For more information about serological testing and hepatitis B vaccination, consult the online Australian Immunisation Handbook: <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccine-preventable-diseases/hepatitis-b#serological-testing-after-hepatitis-b-vaccination>

* NB: The Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends **all** infants should receive a birth dose of monovalent hepatitis B vaccine.



Discussing immunisation with women who are pregnant

The Immunisation Program encourages all immunisation providers to discuss immunisation with their pregnant clients. Discussions should include the importance of having the pertussis vaccine and influenza vaccine during pregnancy to protect both mother and baby.

The [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) recommends that women who are pregnant should receive pertussis-containing vaccine as a single dose **between 20 to 32 weeks of each pregnancy**.

Adacel[®] and Boostrix[®] are funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for women who are pregnant.

The discussion should also include the importance of childhood immunisations and following the NIP schedule to receive vaccinations on time commencing with birth dose hepatitis B vaccine. This is an opportunity to reassure parents that vaccines are safe and to address other vaccine hesitancy issues.

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Medicare/AIR immunisation reminder letters

Children overdue

Parents of children will now receive letters from Medicare/AIR if their child is overdue for immunisation at 7 months; 10 months; 13 months; 15 months; 19 months; 21 months; 49 months; and 54 months.

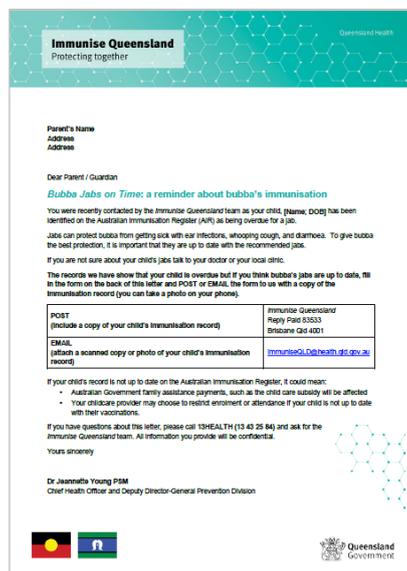
Families who are in receipt of family assistance payments will continue to receive letters from Centrelink if their child is overdue and payments are affected.

Adolescents overdue

Reminder letters are sent to adolescents if they are overdue for any vaccine on the National Immunisation Program schedule. The letters will be mailed to adolescents aged 14½ years; 17 years of age; and 18 years of age.



Immunise Queensland – immunisation reminders



A range of immunisation reminder initiatives are carried out by Queensland Health. Immunisation providers might see patients with letters similar to those pictured here.

The letters are based on information from AIR and sent to:

1. parents of children under five years of age overdue for childhood vaccinations
2. adolescents (in Year 8) overdue for HPV and/or MMR vaccinations
3. people aged 70½ years overdue for shingles vaccination.



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Update on measles-containing vaccines

Supply

There has been increased global demand for measles-containing vaccines, primarily due to large outbreaks in many countries.

Queensland Health and the Australian Government Department of Health have worked together to ensure uninterrupted supply of measles-containing vaccines (MMR and MMRV) for the National Immunisation Program.

Travellers

While Australia was declared free of endemic measles in 2014, large outbreaks of measles occur overseas and measles remains endemic in many countries. Travellers to affected countries are at risk of contracting measles and can unknowingly bring the disease into Australia where outbreaks can occur. Recent cases of measles in Australia highlight the need to maintain a high rate of measles immunisation to prevent measles morbidity and mortality and protect the most vulnerable population groups.

Anyone born during or since 1966 who does not have a documented history of two doses of a MMR containing vaccine, intending to travel overseas to countries where measles is endemic or where outbreaks of measles are common should discuss measles vaccination with their doctor.

Children from six months of age and under 12 months of age who are travelling to countries where measles is endemic and who have not received a MMR vaccination are recommended to receive MMR vaccination prior to travel. However, they should receive another dose of MMR vaccine at 12 months as per the National Immunisation Program schedule and allow four weeks between these doses with the MMRV vaccine to follow at 18 months.

Who is eligible for funded MMR vaccine?

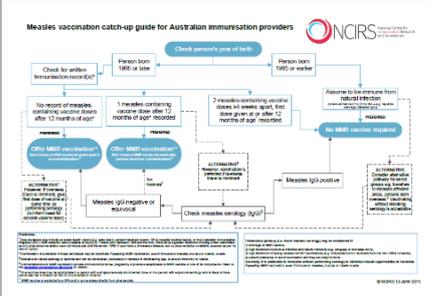
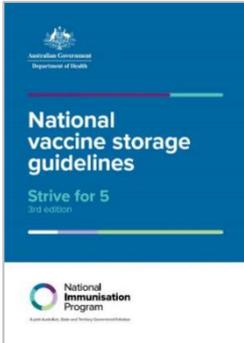
- Children at 12 months of age (MMR) and 18 months of age (MMRV vaccine).
- Adolescents from 10 to 19 years of age who have previously not received two doses of MMR.
- Refugees and other humanitarian entrants aged 20 years and over who have not received two doses of MMR.
- Any person born during or since 1966 who does not have a documented history of two doses of MMR.

Not sure of a patient's measles vaccination history?

Check the Australian Immunisation Register prior to vaccination and use the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance resource 'Measles vaccination catch-up guide for Australian immunisation providers' at <http://ncirs.org.au/measles-vaccination-catch-up-guide>

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A FOCUS on RESOURCES

Resource item	Target group	Information
<p>Injection site reactions Available from NCIRS website: http://ncirs.org.au/sites/default/files/2019-07/NCIRS%20Information%20sheet%20-%20Injection%20site%20reactions_July%202019.pdf</p>	<p>Immunisation providers, clinicians</p>	<p>A 2-page information sheet with information on injection site reactions versus cellulitis and recommendations for future vaccinations.</p> 
<p>Measles vaccination catch-up guide for Australian immunisation providers Available from NCIRS website: http://ncirs.org.au/measles-vaccination-catch-up-guide</p>	<p>Immunisation providers, clinicians</p>	<p>A guide to assist clinical decision-making about measles vaccination.</p> 
<p>National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5', 3rd edition Order from the Australian Government Department of Health. Also available for download from their website: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5</p>	<p>Immunisation providers</p>	<p>These guidelines provide current information and recommendations for safe vaccine storage.</p> 

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