

IMMUNISATION AND ENROLLING IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL

Information for Primary Schools

March 2018

No Jab, No Play – Changes to the Victorian Law

Changes to the No Jab, No Play legislation have tightened requirements for enrolment in early childhood services and impact acceptable documentation for primary school entry immunisation requirements.

What are the changes?

As of 28 February 2018, an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register will be the only form of documentation accepted as proof of a child's immunisation status to confirm enrolment in a Victorian primary school.

Documents produced by GPs or other immunisation providers will no longer be sufficient as a form of evidence.

What does my school need to do for new enrolments?

Schools are required to request parents provide them with an Immunisation History Statement for their child, take a copy of all statements and record information on the immunisation status of the child prior to enrolment.

Parents or guardians must provide an Immunisation History Statement to the school regardless of whether the child is or is not immunised.

From 28 February 2018 only an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register can be accepted as proof of immunisation status on school entry.

Prospective students will not be prevented from enrolling in school if they have not been immunised or do not have an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register.

How do parents/carers get their child on the Australian Immunisation Register?

If a family is enrolled on Medicare then they are automatically registered.

For families who aren't enrolled on Medicare, a GP or immunisation nurse can enter them on the register along with the details of any vaccines they have had.

How can parents/carers get an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register?

Parents and guardians will be sent an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register when their child turns 5 years old, but a Statement can be requested at any time.

Parents or guardians should contact the Australian Immunisation Register if they:

- are moving or have recently moved, to ensure their contact details are up to date
- think their child's statement is incomplete or incorrect.

Parents or guardians can print a copy of their child's Immunisation History Statement from their [myGov](#) account.

If they have difficulty getting a copy via their myGov account they can:

- call the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809
- visit a Medicare or Centrelink office.

What if the family is not enrolled on Medicare?

For families who aren't enrolled on Medicare, a GP or immunisation nurse can enter them on the Australian Immunisation Register along with the details of any vaccines they have had.

The Better Health Channel has a [health service locator](#) that can assist families to find their nearest immunisation provider.

To receive a copy of the Statement, these families will need to call the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809 to request that it be sent through the post. This may take up to 14 days to arrive.

Where can parents/carers access immunisation services?

GPs, immunisation nurses at local councils, and health clinics can provide immunisation services. The Better Health Channel has a [health service locator](#) that can assist families to find their nearest immunisation provider.

What does my school need to do if the Immunisation History Statement is not provided?

Children of school age are entitled to be enrolled at their designated neighbourhood government school unless an approved alternative placement has been arranged.

Whilst prospective students will not be prevented from enrolling in school if they have not been immunised, parents or guardians must still provide an Immunisation History Statement to the school and principals should take reasonable steps to obtain this documentation.

If a parent or guardian does not provide the Statement prior to enrolment the principal can conditionally enrol the student provided they:

- record the conditions of the enrolment and
- advise the parents or guardians in writing that the enrolment will remain conditional upon providing the Immunisation History Statement and will only be formally completed when this condition is met.

For further information refer to the section of the Department's [Admission Policy](#) on Incomplete Student Information.

What are the requirements for enrolling overseas students?

Overseas students enrolling in a Victorian government primary school must also provide an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register to the school, regardless of whether the child is or is not immunised.

Prospective students can be seen by a Victorian GP or immunisation nurse to have their vaccination records assessed and be offered vaccination as required.

The Better Health Channel has a [health service locator](#) that can assist families to find their nearest immunisation provider.

Once the child's records have been reviewed and updated by their GP, parents or guardians can request an updated Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register.

Families who do not hold a Medicare card should call the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809 to request a copy of the Immunisation History Statement be provided through the post. This may take up to 14 days to arrive.

A Translating and Interpreting Service is available by calling 131 450, Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:45pm.

As with Australian students, If a parent or guardian of an overseas students does not provide the Immunisation History Statement prior to enrolment the principal can conditionally enrol the student provided they:

- record the conditions of the enrolment and
- advise the parents or guardians in writing that the enrolment will remain conditional upon providing the Immunisation History Statement and will only be formally completed when this condition is met.

For further information refer to the section of the Department's [Admission Policy](#) on Incomplete Student Information.