

Information Sheet

INFORMATION FOR GENERAL PRACTICES

IMMUNISATION

Introduction

COORDINARE assists practices with immunisation by:

- directing practices to where to find information and resources, including on ACIR, cold chain and fridge logging
- publishing alerts, new information and current changes in policies
- promoting webinars, workshops and educational courses on immunisation
- collaborating with the NSW Public Health Unit to promote best practice.

South Eastern NSW maintains an immunisation coverage rate of approximately 93-94 per cent (2015). The benefits of immunisation include:

- illness and death from vaccine-preventable diseases have fallen greatly since the introduction of Government vaccination in Australia in 1932
- immunisation is the safest and most effective way to protect Australians from vaccine-preventable diseases
- parents are given financial incentives to have their children fully immunised
- a coverage rate of 90 per cent or more creates herd immunity which in turn reduces the risk for immunosuppressed patients, babies too young to be immunised, the elderly, those already vaccinated and those unvaccinated.

Essential guidelines

1. The [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) 10th edition 2013
 - Vaccination procedures (pre and post vaccination, administration of the vaccine, catch-up schedules)
 - Vaccination for special risk groups (ATSI, international travellers, special groups e.g. allergic, pregnant, asplenia, immunocompromised, HIV, sex industry workers)
 - Vaccine-preventable diseases
 - Passive immunisation
2. [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – Strive for 5 \(2nd edition\)](#)
 - Cold chain
 - Safe vaccine storage
 - Back up plans (power failures, packing coolers)
 - Protocols and self-audit

Information Sheet

Both resources are available in hard copy on the Department of Health Immunise Australia website <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/> and can be ordered online. Also, a copy of the **NSW Immunisation Schedule** can be downloaded from [NSW Health](#).

Sources of immunisation information

1. Public Health Unit (PHU) on 1300 066 055
2. NSW Health www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation
3. Department of Health – Immunise Australia www.immunise.health.gov.au
4. NCIRS (National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance) www.ncirs.edu.au
5. ATAGI (Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation) <https://www.ausgovboards.gov.au/boards/australian-technical-advisory-group-immunisation-ataqi>
6. ACIR (Australian Childhood Immunisation Register) – for children <7 years old (ACIR provides coverage rates) – essential for immunisation providers to register an encounter post vaccination <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/services/australian-childhood-immunisation-register/>
7. Health Professionals Online Services (HPOS) – including ACIR <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/hpos/>
8. HPV Register (Human papillomavirus) - essential for immunisation providers to register an encounter post vaccination <http://www.hpvregister.org.au/>

COORDINARE website

The COORDINARE website has links to information and resources on topics related to immunisation. Go to <http://www.coordinare.org.au/tools-for-general-practice/quality-and-safety/>

Clinical questions

Any clinical queries **must** be directed to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) (10th edition) and/or the Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.

COORDINARE staff are unable to provide clinical advice.

Information Sheet

Queries on immunisation, by topic:

1. ACIR online support and resources

- a. ACIR Information and HPOS Login [Australian Childhood Immunisation Register for health professionals - Department of Human Services](#)

2. Arguments for immunisation

- a. Myths and realities - available online at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/content/uci-myths-guideprov>
- b. Your Guide to Understanding Childhood Immunisation available online at <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/IMM52-cnt>

3. Conscientious objectors

- a. Eligibility and guidelines http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/provider_ga.aspx and <http://www.immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au/>
- b. Form <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Documents/vaccination-objection-form-for-child-care-centres.pdf>

4. Cold chain

- a. Explanation, resources [Refer to Strive for 5 2nd edition](#) at <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/IMM77-cnt> or COORDINARE website
 - o Cold chain breaches: Refer to the COORDINARE website or phone the Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055
 - o Data logging: If assistance is required contact the Public Health Unit

5. Vaccine fridges

Google 'Purpose built vaccine fridges'

6. Vaccine information

Available online from NSW Health and from [The Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th edition](#) at <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home>

7. Catch-up programs

- a. The [Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th ed](#) at <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home>
- b. Phone the Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055

Information Sheet

8. Ordering vaccines

- a. [NSW Vaccine order forms](#) or contact your Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 for information.
- b. New vaccine account numbers (VAN) are obtained from the Public Health Unit. To login and order: <https://nsw.csldirect.com.au/> (online ordering from the NSW Vaccine Centre)

9. Current issues / policies

Available on NSW Health – Media Releases <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/pages/default.aspx> or as presented by different media (documentaries, journals etc)

10. NSW Immunisation schedule

Available from NSW Health

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Documents/nsw_schedule_july_13.pdf

11. Travel advice

- a. www.masta.edu.au, <http://travelvaccines.com.au> [International Society of Travel Medicine](#)
- b. Available on practice software (MD and BP) or google 'travel vaccines'

12. Adverse reactions following immunisation:

- a. Download the report form and contact the PHU: Phone 1300 066 055
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/aefi.aspx>
- b. Practices can contact NSW Health (Immunisation Adverse Events) Ph: 9845 1414 or email: Kathryn.cannings@health.nsw.gov.au

Most popular resources for practices:

1. Your Guide to Understanding Childhood Immunisation

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/IMM52-cnt>

2. Common Reaction Tear Off Pads

[http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/8B9C3F34D68575B3CA257E8B0004268B/\\$File/Immunisation-tear-off-pads.pdf](http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/8B9C3F34D68575B3CA257E8B0004268B/$File/Immunisation-tear-off-pads.pdf)

3. Strive for 5 2nd Edn

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/IMM77-cnt>

4. Strive for 5 – Fridge warning packs

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/IMM77-cnt>

5. Myths and Realities <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/content/uci-myths-guideprov>

6. The Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th Edn

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-hom>