

Providing Immunisation Information to School or Child Care Facilities

Information for Parents/ Guardians

Commonly, schools and child care facilities routinely update their immunisation records on an annual basis, however, should your child receive any additional vaccinations after starting school or child care, it is important to make sure that school and child care records are updated. Otherwise your child may be unnecessarily excluded from school or child care if an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease taking place.

What if I am sure my child is fully vaccinated, but I can't remember the details or I can't get the required information?

If you believe your child has been immunised against certain diseases but you can't get written proof, you can fill in and sign a Statutory Declaration explaining this. A Statutory Declaration form is available at your child's school or child care facility or from the Education Department or Department of Health and Human Services websites:

http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/public_and_environmental_health/related_topics/immunisation/forms

Apart from a JP, the Statutory Declaration can be witnessed by professionals such as Medical Practitioners, pharmacists, or teachers employed on a full time basis at a school. In such instances these professionals act as ex-officio Commissioners for Declarations.

What if I object to the vaccination of my child?

If you object to having your child immunised you must sign a Statutory Declaration stating this fact

Is homeopathic "immunisation" recognised?

No. Homeopathic "immunisation" has not been shown to work as an alternative to conventional immunisation in preventing serious illness. Only conventional immunisation has been proven to provide enough protection against these diseases.

Will my child have to stay home if there is a disease outbreak at school or in child care?

If an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease is declared in your community and your child is not fully immunised, they may have to stay home. These decisions will be made by the Director of Public Health and/or offices of The Public & Environmental Health Service in consultation with school authorities and when the outbreak is declared to be over they may return to school or child care. This will prevent the disease spreading to other children.

Of course, if your child is unwell then the child will have to stay home until better. You may wish to talk to your family doctor for more information on how long your child should stay at home if they are unwell.

Where do I go for more information?

For further information about immunisation requirements, speak to staff at:

- Your child's school or child care facility
- Your local council
- Your doctor
- The Family, Child and Youth Health nurse in your local community

You may also contact the Department of Health and Human Services' Immunisation Hotline on freecall 1800 671 738.