

## Want more information?

Contact the Health Protection Service, Immunisation Unit on (02) 6205 2300 or

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service – phone 6284 6222

Visit our website at <http://www.health.act.gov.au/our-services/immunisation>



# Immunise our children to stay healthy

Health Protection Service



Photo Source: West Belconnen Child and Family Services

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## Where can we go to get our child immunised?

Your doctor, Winnunga Nimmityjah or Maternal and Child Health Clinic (02) 6207 9977 can immunise your child. Be sure to tell the doctor or nurse if your child is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander as they may need extra immunisations.

## Why do babies need to be immunised at a young age?

Babies need help to fight disease. Immunisation protects against many diseases. You can help your child stay healthy by giving all immunisations on time.

## How many immunisations will our child need?

Your child will need two injections at **2, 4, 6, 12** and **18** months of age. At **2** and **4** months they will also be given a liquid vaccine to swallow. At **4** years they will have one injection. These immunisation will protect your child against 13 different diseases that can cause some types of pneumonia, diarrhoea, ear infections, whooping cough, measles and liver infections.

Your child might need extra immunisations if they have a chronic disease or if they were born early.

Annual influenza vaccination is also recommended for all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children from 6 months of age.

Your child will be offered more immunisations when they get to high school.

## When should our child start having their immunisation?

Your child can have their first immunisation at **6** weeks. The next immunisations should be given on time at **4, 6, 12** and **18** months of age and at **4** years.

## What happens if we are late in taking our child for their immunisations?

To give your child the best protection, all immunisations should be given on time.

If you are late, your child can still have most of their immunisations but may miss out on receiving some that can only be given under a certain age.

Your doctor or nurse can help you catch your child up on any missed immunisations.

## What can we expect after our child has been immunised?

Immunisation is safer than having the disease. Sometimes immunisation can cause minor and short-lasting reactions. These reactions could be mild fever (less than 38.5 degrees) or soreness, redness, itching and swelling around the injection site. Your child could also be grizzly and unsettled. These reactions usually last for 1–2 days.

If you are worried about your child after they have had their immunisations you should seek medical advice from your doctor, hospital, Maternal and Child Health Nurse or Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service. You can also contact the Health Protection Service, Immunisation Unit on (02) 6205 2300 from Monday to Friday between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm.

