

# National Immunisation Program



The routine schedule of vaccines provided free under the National Immunisation Program is as follows:

AGE	IMMUNISATION
Birth	Hepatitis B Vaccine
2 months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Vaccine Oral Polio Vaccine Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)/ Hepatitis B Vaccine <i>Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccine</i> *
4 months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Vaccine Oral Polio Vaccine Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)/ Hepatitis B Vaccine <i>Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccine</i> *
6 months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Vaccine Oral Polio Vaccine <i>Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccine</i> *
12 months	Measles/Mumps/Rubella Vaccine Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)/ Hepatitis B Vaccine Meningococcal C Vaccine
4 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Vaccine Oral Polio Vaccine Measles/Mumps/Rubella Vaccine
Year 7 (secondary school)	Adult Hepatitis B Vaccine (1st dose) Adult Hepatitis B Vaccine (2nd dose) 4 – 6 months apart
Year 10 (secondary school)	Adult/Adolescent Diphtheria/Tetanus/ Pertussis Vaccine
Non-immune women shortly after delivery	Measles/Mumps/Rubella Vaccine
50 years	Adult Diphtheria/Tetanus Vaccine
Over 50 years (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people)	Influenza Vaccine (annual) Pneumococcal Vaccine
Over 65 years	Influenza Vaccine (annual) Pneumococcal Vaccine

\* Funded for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders up to 2 years of age and children with certain medical risk factors as recommended by a Paediatrician.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for this information.



## What is the National Immunisation Program (NIP)?

The NIP is an Australian, State and Territory Governments initiative that provides free vaccines to Australians.

## What is the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule (ASVS)?

The ASVS lists all recommendations for vaccination made on the basis of disease burden, and effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the vaccine on a population basis. The Australian Government funds most vaccines however some vaccines are not currently funded. These vaccines must be purchased by the parent/carer either through the doctor or by prescription or through the local council immunisation service. When purchasing vaccines by script, it is important that you return to your vaccine provider as soon as possible with the vaccine to ensure its safety and effectiveness.

## Which vaccines are not funded but are recommended?

- Childhood Pneumococcal vaccine (\*see over for funded groups)
- Chickenpox vaccine
- Inactivated Polio vaccine
- Please see the appropriate immunisation fact sheets that relate to these vaccines for more detailed information.

## Who should receive Childhood Pneumococcal Vaccine?

- All infants from two months of age to the fifth birthday. The earlier the vaccine is administered the better the protection to the child as the disease can occur at an early age.
- It is recommended to be given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age but for children older than this it can be given as soon as possible and before the fifth birthday, given that pneumococcal disease is the leading cause of meningitis in children under the age of five.

## Who should receive Chickenpox vaccine?

- Children aged 18 months unless they have already had chickenpox.
- Children aged 10-13 years, unless they have already received a dose of chickenpox vaccine or had the disease.
- Any child aged 12 months to 10 years who has not received a chickenpox vaccine or had the disease.
- Adolescents (14 years and over) and adults who have not been vaccinated for chickenpox or who have not had the disease. Persons in this age category with no history of chickenpox should have a blood test to check for immunity. About 5% of people are immune to chickenpox without ever appearing to have been ill. Chickenpox vaccine is especially indicated for people in high-risk occupations such as health-care workers, teachers and workers in child-care centres, non-immune women prior to pregnancy, non-immune parents of young children and non-immune household contacts of immunosuppressed persons.

## Why consider Inactivated Poliomyelitis Vaccine (IPV) instead of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV)?

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) includes free OPV, however the administration of OPV includes a very small but proven risk of vaccine-associated paralytic polio.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) still approves the use of OPV in Australia and still considers it an effective vaccine for the prevention of polio.

The ASVS recommends IPV be used in preference to OPV when IPV in combination vaccines become available. Currently there is no IPV combination vaccine available in Australia, however there is a single IPV vaccine that can be purchased and administered if preferred.

The World Health Organisation advocates the use of OPV in its program for the global eradication of polio. In Australia, NHMRC still approves the use of OPV to vaccinate children against polio.