



# Australian Immunisation Register Immunisation medical exemption

## Purpose of this form

Use this form if you are a general practitioner and would like to notify the Australian Government Department of Human Services of an individual who has a vaccine exemption due to a medical contraindication or natural immunity.

## Filling in this form

- Please use black or blue pen
- Print in BLOCK LETTERS
- Mark boxes like this  with a ✓ or X

## Returning your form

Check that all required questions are answered and that the form is signed and dated.

Send the completed and signed form to:

**Department of Human Services  
Australian Immunisation Register  
PO Box 7852  
Canberra ACT 2610**

or

Fax: 08 9254 4810

## For more information

Go to [humanservices.gov.au/hpair](http://humanservices.gov.au/hpair) or call 1800 653 809 Monday to Friday, between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm, local time.

**Note:** Call charges may apply.

## Individual's details

### 1 Medicare card number

Ref no.

### 2 Family name

First given name

Second given name

### 3 Postal address

### 4 Date of birth

### 5 Gender

Male  Female

## Vaccines exempt due to medical contraindication

The medical basis for vaccine exemption is to be based on guidance in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*. Advice on what constitutes a valid medical exemption to vaccination is provided on page 3 of this form.

### 6 The individual identified on this form has a:

- permanent** vaccine exemption due to medical contraindication because of the following:
- previous anaphylaxis (to vaccine/vaccine component)
  - significant immunocompromise (live attenuated vaccines only)

OR

- temporary** vaccine exemption until
- due to a non-permanent contraindication because of the following:
- acute major medical illness
  - significant immunocompromise of short duration (live attenuated vaccines only)
  - the individual is pregnant (live attenuated vaccines only)

### 7 Select from the following vaccines: **Tick ANY that apply**

#### Live

- MMRII  ProQuad  Varilrix   
 Priorix  Rotarix  Varivax   
 Priorix-Tetra  RotaTeq

#### Inactivated

- Adacel  Hexaxim  Menveo   
 Adacel Polio  Infanrix  Neisvac-C   
 ADT Booster  Infanrix Hexa  Prevenar 13   
 Boostrix  Infanrix IPV  Pneumovax 23   
 Boostrix IPV  IPOL  Quadracel   
 Engerix B  Menactra  Tripacel   
 HBVax II  Menitorix

Other vaccine  Specify



CLK0IM011 1609

## Antigens exempt due to natural immunity

Natural immunity to a disease is a valid exemption to vaccination for the antigens listed below. Exemption to a combination of vaccine(s) on the basis of natural immunity is only valid if immunity is confirmed for all vaccine antigens. Advice on what constitutes acceptable evidence of natural immunity is provided on page 3 of this form.

8 The individual has a natural immunity to:

Hepatitis B       Mumps       Varicella   
Measles       Rubella

This has been confirmed by:

Laboratory testing

OR

Physician-based clinical diagnosis

## Privacy notice

9 Your personal information is protected by law (including the *Privacy Act 1988*) and is collected by the Australian Government Department of Human Services for administering payments and services. This information is required to assist with your application or claim.

Your information may be used by the Department, or given to other parties: where you have agreed to that; or where it is required or authorised by law (including for the purpose of research or conducting investigations).

You can get more information about the way in which the Department will manage your personal information, including our privacy policy, at [humanservices.gov.au/privacy](http://humanservices.gov.au/privacy)

## Provider's declaration

10 I declare that:

- the information I have provided in this form is complete and correct.

I understand that:

- giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Medicare provider number

Provider's signature

Date

## Guidelines for immunisation medical exemption

### What is considered a valid medical contraindication to immunisation?

The medical basis for vaccine exemption is to be based on guidance in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* which is available on the Immunise Australia website [immunise.health.gov.au](http://immunise.health.gov.au)

Medical contraindications include:

- anaphylaxis following a previous dose of the relevant vaccine
  - anaphylaxis following any component of the relevant vaccine
  - significant immunocompromise (for live attenuated vaccines only).
- Note:** For further details, including what is considered significant immunocompromise, see *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*. For example, HIV-infected persons in whom immunocompromise is mild can be given MMR and varicella vaccines.

No child should be denied the benefits of immunisation by withholding vaccines for inappropriate reasons. A comprehensive list of false contraindications to vaccination is provided in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*.

- Egg allergy, even severe, is not necessarily a valid exemption for any vaccine routinely recommended for children.
- Presence of a chronic underlying medical condition (apart from significant immunocompromise) is not a valid vaccine exemption.
- Family history of any adverse events following immunisation is not a valid vaccine exemption.

### In what circumstances should a vaccine be temporarily deferred?

There are some circumstances where the administration of a vaccine should be deferred. These include:

- acute major medical condition
- significantly impaired immune function that is anticipated to be of short duration
- pregnancy (for live attenuated vaccines only).

While vaccination should be deferred in persons with acute febrile illness (current  $T \geq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or other self-limiting acute systemic illness, this would usually be for short periods only and not require completion of this form. For detailed advice check *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*.

### What evidence should I consider when assessing a possible natural immunity?

A previous infection is not a contraindication to immunisation against that same disease. Laboratory testing (via serology, antigen detection or polymerase chain reaction [PCR]) can reliably provide evidence of immunity to hepatitis B, varicella, measles, mumps and rubella. A physician-based clinical diagnosis is accepted although is less reliable than laboratory testing as these diseases are now uncommon among Australian children due to the widespread immunisation and other infections can have similar clinical presentations.

### Who do I contact if I am uncertain whether to vaccinate or not?

Further advice can be sought from your state or territory health authority (see contact details below). In most states and territories specialist immunisation clinics exist which are equipped to assist with complex issues, such as how to manage patients who have experienced a previous adverse event following immunisation or who have an underlying medical condition.

### Resources for communicating the risks and benefits of immunisation

The following resources are available to facilitate discussion on the risks and benefits of immunisation with patients and/or their carers, including those who may have concerns relating to vaccines and immunisation:

- The summary table inside the back cover of the *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* providing 'Comparison of the effects of diseases and the side effects of NIP vaccines'
- Other resources available at [immunise.health.gov.au](http://immunise.health.gov.au)
- *Immunisation Myths and Realities: a guide for providers* (5th edition) [immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/uci-myths-guideprov](http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/uci-myths-guideprov)
- Vaccine preventable disease and vaccine safety factsheets prepared by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance [ncirs.edu.au/provider-resources/ncirs-fact-sheets/](http://ncirs.edu.au/provider-resources/ncirs-fact-sheets/)

### Contact details for state and territory government health authorities

Australian Capital Territory Immunisation Enquiry Line	<b>02 6205 2300</b>
New South Wales (to contact your local public health unit)	<b>1300 066 055</b>
Northern Territory Centre for Disease Control	<b>08 8922 8044</b>
Queensland (to contact your local public health unit)	<b>13 HEALTH (13 4325 84)</b>
South Australia	<b>1300 232 272</b>
Tasmania	<b>1800 671 738</b>
Victoria	<b>1300 882 008</b>
Western Australia (after hours Infectious Diseases Emergency)	<b>08 9321 1312</b> <b>08 9328 0553</b>