

Immunisation recommendations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people without risk factors for vaccine-preventable diseases living in ACT, NSW, Tas, Vic

This table is a summary of vaccine recommendations from the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT, NSW, Tas, Vic based on age and pregnancy status. Shaded cells represent vaccinations funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).^a Brackets indicate that these vaccines are only recommended for a population sub-group. More detail is provided in the corresponding footnote(s).

Disease/vaccine antigen	Abbrev.	Age									Pregnancy status	
		At birth	2 months ^b	4 months	6 months	12 months	18 months	4 years	Adolescents	Adults	During pregnancy	Post-partum
Hepatitis B	HepB	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	(✓) ^c				✓ ^d		
Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis	DTPa/dTpa		✓*	✓*	✓*		✓	✓ [†]	✓ 12–13 years ^e	✓ 65 years ^e	✓ ^f	(✓) ^f
Poliomyelitis	IPV		✓*	✓*	✓*			✓ [†]				
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	Hib		✓*	✓*	✓*		✓					
Pneumococcal	13vPCV		✓	✓	check for medical risk conditions	✓				✓ ≥50 years ^g		
	23vPPV						Check for medical conditions			✓ >50 years ^g		
Rotavirus			✓	✓								
Measles, mumps, rubella	MMR					✓	✓ ^{‡, h}			(✓) ⁱ		(✓) ⁱ
Varicella	VV						✓ [‡]		✓ ^j	(✓) ^j		
Meningococcal serogroup B	MenB		✓	✓	check for medical risk conditions ^k	✓		✓ ^k		(Refer to footnote k)		
Meningococcal serogroup ACWY	MenACWY			✓ ^l		✓ ^l		✓ ^l	✓ 15–19 years; NIP school program dose at 14–16 years ^l	(Refer to footnote l)		
Influenza (annual)	QIV							✓ ^m			✓	
Human papillomavirus	HPV								✓ 9–25 years; NIP school program dose at 12–13 years ⁿ	≤25 years ⁿ		
Herpes zoster	HZ									✓ ≥50 years ^o		

Key

DTPa = Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis vaccine (paediatric formulation)	IPV = Inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine	13vPCV = 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
dTpa = Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis vaccine (reduced antigen formulation)	MenB = Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine	23vPPV = 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine
HepB = Hepatitis B vaccine	MenACWY = Meningococcal serogroup ACWY conjugate vaccine	QIV = Quadrivalent seasonal influenza vaccine
Hib = <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccine	MMR = Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine	VV = Varicella vaccine
HPV = Human papillomavirus vaccine	MMRV = Measles-mumps-rubella-varicella vaccine	
* HepB, DTPa, IPV and Hib are administered at 2, 4 and 6 months of age using a combination vaccine. The 1st dose can be given as early as 6 weeks of age, refer to footnote (b).		
† DTPa and IPV are administered at 4 years of age using a combination vaccine.		
‡ Measles, mumps, rubella and varicella are administered at 18 months of age using a combination vaccine.		

- a** The National Immunisation Program Schedule is available on the Australian Government [Department of Health immunisation website](#). Contact your state/territory health department for further information on any additional immunisation programs specific to your state or territory.
- b** The vaccines scheduled at 2 months of age can be given as early as 6 weeks of age. The next scheduled dose should still be given at 4 months of age.
- c** A booster dose of hepatitis B vaccine is recommended at 12 months of age for infants who were born preterm at <32 weeks gestation or whose birth weight was <2,000 g, unless a blood test 1 month after the final dose of the primary course showed an anti-HBs antibody titre of ≥ 10 mIU/mL.
- d** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are recommended to receive testing for hepatitis B, and hepatitis B vaccine if non-immune.
- e** Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis vaccine is given in adolescence as dTpa (reduced antigen formulation). School years at which the school-based programs are delivered vary among states and territories. Contact your state or territory health department for more details. dTpa vaccine is recommended for any adult who wishes to reduce their likelihood of becoming ill with pertussis. Adults aged ≥ 65 years are recommended to receive a dose of dTpa if they have not had one in the past 10 years. Adults aged ≥ 50 years are recommended to receive a booster dose of tetanus-containing vaccine if their last dose was more than 10 years ago. Adults aged ≥ 65 years are recommended to receive a dose of dTpa if they have not had one in the past 10 years. Adults with tetanus-prone wounds are recommended to receive a booster dose of dT or dTpa if their last dose was more than 5 years ago.
- f** dTpa vaccine is recommended and funded during each pregnancy. If a mother was not vaccinated during pregnancy, maternal vaccination is recommended as soon as possible after birth and preferably before hospital discharge.
- g** 1 dose of 13vPCV followed by 2 doses of 23vPPV (1st dose 12 months later [at least 2 months is acceptable]), 2nd dose at least 5 years later) is recommended and funded for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ≥ 50 years of age.
- h** MMRV should not be given as the 1st dose of measles-containing vaccine in children <4 years of age.
- i** 2 doses of MMR are recommended for adults born during or since 1966, unless the individual is documented to be immune. MMR vaccine is recommended for women of child-bearing age who are seronegative for rubella. Vaccinated women should avoid pregnancy for 28 days after vaccination.
- j** A 2nd dose of varicella vaccine is recommended to provide increased protection and minimise the chance of breakthrough varicella in children and adolescents <14 years of age. This could potentially be given at 4 years of age, or at any time up to 14 years of age (at least 4 weeks after the 1st dose). 2 doses of varicella vaccine are recommended for all adults who are non-immune to varicella. Non-immune women are recommended to receive varicella vaccine before they become pregnant.
- k** MenB vaccine is recommended for infants and children aged <2 years and adolescents aged 15–19 years. MenB vaccine is recommended and funded for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from 2 months of age. Bexsero is the only MenB vaccine that can be used in infants and children aged <10 years. The doses required and the schedule depend on the age at which the vaccine course is started and the presence of at-risk medical conditions. For further details, refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).
- l** MenACWY vaccine is recommended for all people ≥ 6 weeks of age who wish to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with meningococcal disease, and is recommended for infants and children aged <2 years and adolescents aged 15–19 years. MenACWY vaccine is recommended for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 2 months–19 years. The doses required and the schedule depend on the age at which the vaccine course is started, the brand product used and the presence of at-risk medical conditions. A single NIP-funded dose of MenACWY vaccine (Nimenrix) is scheduled at 12 months of age. A single dose of MenACWY vaccine (Nimenrix) is also provided for adolescents through a school-based program (14–16-year-olds); those aged 15–19 years who did not receive the vaccine at school can receive it from their GP. For further details, refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

- m** Annual influenza vaccine is recommended and funded for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ≥ 6 months of age. The QIV is also recommended and funded under the NIP for pregnant women, For older people aged ≥ 65 years, the adjuvanted quadrivalent influenza vaccine (aQIV, Flud Quad®) is funded under the NIP and is preferentially recommended over standard QIV. Refer to the [ATAGI advice on seasonal influenza vaccines](#).
- n** A single dose of HPV vaccine is recommended and NIP-funded for adolescents and young adults (aged ≤ 25 years). A 3-dose schedule of HPV vaccine is recommended and NIP-funded for immunocompromised adolescents and young adults. The optimal age for HPV vaccination is around 12–13 years but school years at which the school-based programs are delivered vary among states and territories. Contact your state or territory health department for more details.
- o** A 2-dose schedule of herpes zoster vaccine (Shingrix®) is recommended and funded under the NIP for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged ≥ 50 years, 2–6 months apart..

Note: This table does not include vaccinations used in the context of response to and control of a disease outbreak, or specifically for travel outside Australia.

Refer also to [Immunisation recommendations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people without risk factors for vaccine-preventable diseases living in NT, Qld, SA, WA](#) and [Immunisation recommendations for Non-Indigenous Australians without risk factors for vaccine-preventable diseases](#).