

ADDITIONAL IMMUNISATIONS

For Infants

Some vaccines are given as part of the routine Australian & State-based childhood immunisation schedules. There are also additional vaccines, or additional doses, that may help provide earlier or broader protection. Families may choose to discuss and consider these with their immunisation provider. Some vaccines are privately funded, unless your child is eligible under a funded program.

Suggested discussion points:

Ask your immunisation provider:

- Which vaccines are recommended for my baby's age?
- If my baby has other medical conditions, are there additional vaccines recommended?
- Which vaccines are funded and which are private (self-paying) vaccines?
- Can additional vaccines be given at the same visit as routine vaccines?
- Do we need specific vaccines for childcare or for travel?
- When should we book the next doses?

Optional vaccines and additional doses to discuss

Meningococcal B — Bexsero®

Meningococcal B can cause serious illness, including meningitis and sepsis.

Bexsero® helps protect against meningococcal B disease.

For infants starting before 12 months of age, this is usually given as a 3-dose course:

Age	Vaccine
6 weeks	Bexsero® dose 1
4 months, or 8 weeks after 1 st dose	Bexsero® dose 2
12 months	Bexsero® dose 3

Paracetamol is recommended with each Bexsero® dose for children under 2 years, as fever is common after this vaccine. Bexsero® is privately funded for many children, but may be funded for some children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Meningococcal ACWY — Nimenrix®

Meningococcal ACWY protects against meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y.

The vaccine is routinely given at 12 months of age, however for earlier protection you can start before this. For infants starting before 6 months of age with Nimenrix®, this is a 3-dose course:

Age	Vaccine
6 weeks	Nimenrix® dose 1
4 months, or 8 weeks after 1 st dose	Nimenrix® dose 2
12 months	Nimenrix® dose 3 (Routine Schedule)

The early doses before 12 months are privately funded.

The 12-month meningococcal ACWY dose is part of the routine schedule.

This option may be particularly worth discussing if your baby will be travelling, attending childcare, or if you would like broader protection earlier.

ADDITIONAL IMMUNISATIONS

For Infants



Additional Chickenpox (Varicella) protection

Varicella vaccination is routinely given at 18 months as part of the MMRV vaccine. A second dose of varicella vaccine can provide additional protection and reduce the chance of breakthrough chickenpox.

There are two common options:

Option

Earlier Protection

Later 2nd dose

Timing

Private varicella vaccine at 12 months,
then routine MMRV vaccine at 18 months

Routine MMRV vaccine at 18 months,
then a private varicella vaccine at around 24 months

If varicella vaccine is given at 12 months, it is usually given as a varicella-only vaccine, not MMRV (MMRV is not recommended as the first measles-containing vaccine in children under 4 years).

Influenza vaccine

Influenza vaccination is recommended annually from 6 months of age. For children receiving the vaccine for the first time (before age 2), two doses are recommended, given at least 4 weeks apart. Influenza vaccination is often government funded for children aged 6 months to under 5 years.

RSV vaccine

Infants <8 months whose mothers were not vaccinated in pregnancy, or who are at increased risk of severe disease, are recommended to receive RSV vaccine. Children aged ≥8 to <24 months of age who are at high risk of RSV are recommended to receive a RSV vaccine before their 2nd or subsequent RSV season. Discuss your child's eligibility with your care provider.

Travel vaccines

If your infant will be travelling overseas, please book a travel vaccine appointment early. Some vaccines need to be given weeks or months before travel. Travel vaccine advice depends on your child's age, the destinations you are travelling to, the length of stay, accommodation type, food and water safety etc. Some common travel vaccines include:

Hepatitis A

Vaqta® Paediatric can be given from 12 months.
It is usually given in 2 doses, 6 months apart.

Typhoid

Typhim Vi can be given from age 2 years. Boosters 3 yearly as required.

Other vaccines & treatments may include Yellow Fever, Japanese Encephalitis, Tuberculosis, Cholera, Rabies & Malaria prevention.

Please bring your infant's immunisation record to your appointment.

The Australian Immunisation Register is often routinely checked by your immunisation provider at the time of vaccination & any new immunisations added.

This can be found in your Medicare account on the MyGov app.