

# After immunisation information



Immunisations (vaccines) can have side effects. All vaccines used in Australia have been tested for safety and have been approved for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).



*It is important to wait for 15 minutes after receiving a vaccine so you can be observed for any reactions, and for treatment to be given if needed.*

## Common reactions to immunisations



Mild fever that doesn't last long <38.5°C



Where needle was given: Sore, red, burning, itching or swelling for 1-2 days and/or small hard lump for a few weeks



Grizzly, unsettled, unhappy and sleepy



Teenagers/adults fainting and muscle aches

## What to do at home



If baby/child is hot, don't have too many clothes or blankets on



Breast feed more frequently and/or give extra fluids



Put a cold wet cloth on the injection site if it's sore



For fever or pain give paracetamol. Follow instructions on packaging

## Rare reactions to immunisation

Sometimes people might have a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) after getting a vaccine. If a severe allergic reaction happens, it usually happens within the first 15 minutes after getting a vaccine. Your provider can give immediate medical treatment if needed.

If the reaction is severe, does not go away or you are worried - talk to your doctor, the person who gave the vaccine or go to a hospital. You can call SA Health on 1300 232 272 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm or get advice from a nurse by calling healthdirect on 1800 022 222 anytime.

## How to report a reaction

All serious or unexpected reactions should be reported. You can:



complete an online Vaccine Reaction Report Form at [sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](https://sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation)



contact the Immunisation Section on **1300 232 272**



report the reaction to your **immunisation provider.**

**Ticked boxes  indicate vaccines given today \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_**

**Further common reactions specific to each vaccine are listed below:**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>COVID-19 vaccines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• fatigue/feeling tired</li><li>• headache</li><li>• fever</li><li>• muscle or joint pain</li><li>• chills/nausea</li><li>• swelling of the lymph nodes</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Measles / mumps / rubella / varicella (chickenpox) containing vaccines</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MMR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MMRV</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Varicella</b> <i>The following reactions may occur 5-12 days after MMR vaccination:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Temperature (above 39°C) lasting 2-3 days, faint red rash (not infectious), cold like symptoms, feeling unwell</li><li>• Swollen glands, stiff neck and/or joint pain</li></ul> <i>The following reaction may occur 5-26 days after varicella vaccination:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chickenpox like rash (2-5 lesions) usually at injection site, occasionally elsewhere</li></ul> <b>If a chickenpox like rash develops, cover the rash and avoid contact with people who have lowered immunity until the rash heals.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Diphtheria / tetanus / pertussis (whooping cough) / polio containing vaccines</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DTPa – hepB – IPV – Hib</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DTPa – IPV</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>dTpa</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>dT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DTPa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irritable, crying, unsettled and/or generally unhappy</li><li>• Drowsiness or tiredness</li><li>• Feeling unwell, muscle aches and/or joint pain</li><li>• Decreased appetite and/or nausea</li><li>• Headache (dTpa)</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meningococcal vaccines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irritability</li><li>• Drowsiness</li><li>• Decreased appetite</li><li>• Headaches</li><li>• Nausea</li></ul> <b>Paracetamol is recommended before and after the administration of meningococcal B vaccine for children less than 2 years as instructed.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Haemophilus influenzae type b</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irritable, crying, unsettled, drowsy and/or generally unhappy</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Oral Rotavirus vaccine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vomiting and diarrhoea can occur up to 7 days</li></ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hepatitis A (Hep A) vaccine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Headache, feeling unwell and/or tiredness</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pneumococcal 23-valent polysaccharide (Pneumovax23) vaccine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Muscle soreness, tiredness and/or chills</li></ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nausea, dizziness</li><li>• Muscle aches and/or joint soreness</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pneumococcal conjugate (Prevenar 13) vaccine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irritable, drowsy and/or decreased appetite</li></ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Headache, tiredness and/or muscle aches</li><li>• Nausea, dizziness</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Herpes zoster (shingles)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Headache, tiredness, muscle or joint aches, feeling unwell</li><li>• Gastrointestinal complaints</li></ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (IPV)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Muscle aches</li><li>• Young babies – crying and/or decreased appetite</li></ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Influenza vaccine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drowsiness, tiredness and/or feeling unwell</li><li>• Muscle aches</li></ul> <p><b>Fever is slightly more common in children when influenza vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine (Prevenar 13®) are given at the same time.</b></p>	

**Fainting may occur but this is seen mainly in adolescents and adults. Anyone who complains of ‘giddiness’ or light-headedness before or after vaccination should be advised to lie down until free of symptoms.**

*Reference:  
Australian Immunisation  
Handbook; online.*