



Immunisation recommendations for persons not involved in health care in the NT

Routine vaccinations

All Australian adults should have received a primary course of immunisation as a child. If there is any possibility that they have not received this they should be referred to a General Practitioner or Community Care Centre for advice.

Further routine adult vaccines recommended are:

- Booster doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (Boostrix™) recommended at age 13 and diphtheria and tetanus (ADT) at age 50;
- Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, for all adults born after 1960, if they have not had two documented MMR vaccines or been diagnosed with measles and rubella confirmed by pathology testing. Rubella immunity is especially important for women to confirm prior to child bearing. Women born overseas may have missed out on MMR vaccination.
- Pneumococcal vaccine for all people with medical risk factors including tobacco smoking, non-Aboriginal people aged 65 years and over, and all Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over;
- Influenza vaccination for non-Aboriginal people aged 65 years and over, and all Aboriginal people aged 50 years and over.

These and other vaccines are also recommended to other people who have specific medical conditions (see the NT Adult and Special Groups Vaccination Schedule, influenza vaccination recommendations and pneumococcal vaccination recommendations). These vaccinations are available from General Practitioners and Community Care Centres and some may incur a cost.

Vaccinations related to occupational risk

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B vaccination is indicated for workers who may be exposed to blood or other body fluids (not including saliva). Therefore, staff that are required to provide first aid should be vaccinated for hepatitis B. Pre and post testing for immunity and booster doses are not recommended.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A vaccine may be advised for staff visiting remote communities who are likely to be eating locally cooked meals or working around sewage areas. There is a higher incidence of hepatitis A infection in remote communities and this disease is spread faecal–orally. Workers who are exposed to sewerage, are involved with changing of children's nappies or caring for incontinent people should be offered vaccination. Pre testing for immunity is recommended to establish susceptibility.

Chickenpox

Chickenpox vaccine is now available in Australia. This vaccine is indicated for people with no history of disease or who are non-immune as determined by a blood test. It is highly recommended for non-immune women prior to pregnancy and workers in high-risk occupations such as health care workers, teachers and workers in child care centres.

Tuberculosis

Testing for tuberculosis (TB) is also recommended for those regularly visiting remote Aboriginal communities. A tuberculin skin test (Mantoux test) is used for baseline screening for tuberculosis, followed by an annual Mantoux test in those with a negative Mantoux for as long as they continue to visit Aboriginal communities.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

In 2004 a new vaccine was introduced called Boostrix™ which offers protection for adults against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis. It is recommended for use in young adults at 13 years, adults working with young children especially health care workers and childcare workers in contact with young children and for couples planning a pregnancy or for both parents as soon as possible after delivery.

Where to go for vaccination and further information

Where vaccinations are recommended based on occupational risk, the cost of vaccination is the generally the

responsibility of the employer or the employee. The provision of occupational vaccinations should be negotiated through a Community Care Centre, a General Practitioner or from the Health Services Australia vaccination clinic in Cavenagh St (phone 89817492).

Mantoux testing is free and available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays at Community Care Centres or the Chest Clinic in Centre for Disease Control, Building 4, Royal Darwin Hospital. A follow-up visit 3 days later is required to have the test reviewed by medical staff.

Further information about Hepatitis A and B vaccination is available on the DHCS website at:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/health/cdc/cdc.shtml>.

The NT Adult and Special Groups Vaccination Schedule 1/11/2005 is available from Centre for Disease Control or at:

http://www.nt.gov.au/health/cdc/immunisation/NT_Adult_Special_Groups.pdf

For more information contact your nearest Centre for Disease Control.

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