

Immunisation Requirements at MRMS

A Guide for Enquiring Families, Applying Families and Families Accepting an Offer

Why is this required?

As part of the application and admission process, Margaret River Montessori School requests copies of students' Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statements.

These statements help us meet our legislative obligations and ensure we have current immunisation information on file prior to a student's commencement.

We understand that families may be asked to provide an updated AIR Statement at various stages throughout the application process. While this can sometimes feel repetitive, updated statements are necessary to keep our records current and help ensure all requirements can be met when a child is offered a place.

A child's immunisation status does not affect their ability to apply or remain on our waitlist. The commencement requirements become relevant when a place is offered and a child is preparing to start.

What is an AIR Statment? Where do I find it?

An Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement is an official record issued through the Australian Government's Australian Immunisation Register. AIR Statements can be downloaded as a PDF through myGov or Medicare online services, or obtained through Services Australia. Please see the [QR code](#) or visit Mygov for more help on how to access your child's AIR's.



When will MRMS request an AIR Statement?



On Application

A current AIR Statement might be requested at the time of your application. Applications are welcomed regardless of a child's current immunisation status.



Whilst on the Waitlist

If an application remains active for an extended period, MRMS may periodically request an updated statement as part of its review and record-maintenance process.



During Admission

MRMS requires a copy of your child's AIR Immunisation History Statement that is dated within two months of the child's commencement date.

What we CANNOT accept

- letters from health care professionals
- emails from medical practices
- vaccination plans
- appointment confirmations
- handwritten records or immunisation booklets
- other medical documentation
- 'Out of Date' AIR



We CAN only accept

- An official Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement - dated within required date range



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Commencing in E1, E2 & KG

Children commencing in Early Entry 2 (E2), Early Entry 1 (E1) or Kindergarten must meet the applicable Western Australian immunisation requirements before they are able to commence school. Children must have an AIR immunisation status of:

- **Up to Date** - The AIR Statement displays an up-to-date immunisation status.
- **On a Catch up Schedule** - A recognised catch-up schedule is registered and displayed on the AIR Statement. This **MUST** be on the statement it cannot be provided as a plan or letter from your health care professional.
- **Approved Exemption** - An applicable approved exemption is recorded and shown with the AIR Statement.

Please plan ahead

Families are strongly encouraged to speak with their GP or immunisation provider well before the intended commencement date if they anticipate needing to become up to date, commence a recognised catch-up schedule, obtain an approved exemption, or transfer overseas immunisation records to the AIR. Updating the Australian Immunisation Register is not always immediate. Even after vaccinations have been administered, delays can occur while:

- vaccinations are uploaded to the AIR
- historical vaccinations are entered
- overseas vaccinations are assessed and recorded
- recognised catch-up schedules are processed and registered

Why hasn't my child's immunisation status been updated on their AIR?

If your child has already caught up or commenced catching up but the AIR does not yet reflect this, it may be because:

- a vaccination has not yet been reported to the AIR
- historical vaccinations have not been entered
- overseas vaccinations have not yet been assessed and recorded
- the immunisation provider has not completed the assessment required to register a recognised catch-up schedule

What to ask your GP or clinic

1. Confirm that all vaccinations have been uploaded to the AIR.
2. Ensure historical or overseas vaccinations have been recorded, where applicable.
3. Verify that the AIR status now displays "On a catch-up schedule."



Commencing in PP through to Year 12

All new student must provide an AIR dated within 2 months of their commencement date. When starting in Pre Primary or above the immunisation status of the child or young person is irrelevant to them being able to commence.

Students aged 14 years and over

For privacy reasons, anyone aged 14 years or older must generally obtain their own Immunisation History Statement.

If the student does not yet have access to myGov or Medicare online services, additional steps may be required before the statement can be accessed. Families of older students should allow additional time to obtain this documentation before commencement.

Starting soon or hoping too?

Get your young persons my gov account activated and linked to AIR's sooner rather than later. This provides time to resolve access or record issues before commencement.

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Relocating Families

Families relocating to Australia as Australian Citizens, Permanent Residents or on Visas eligible to hold a Medicare card will also need to produce an AIR for their child. Please allow sufficient time for overseas immunisation records to be assessed and transferred to the Australian Immunisation Register. Where required, a recognised catch-up schedule should also be established well before the proposed commencement date.

International & exchange students

Some international and exchange students may not be registered with the Australian Immunisation Register and therefore may not be able to provide an AIR Immunisation History Statement. Where this applies, please contact the Enrolments Officer before submitting an application or accepting an offered place. Guidance can then be provided regarding documentation that may be accepted in lieu of an AIR Statement, where permitted.

THIS MAY APPLY

To Eligible international or exchange students who are not registered with the AIR because of their visa or residency status.

THIS DOES NOT APPLY

To Australian residents or families who have simply not yet registered with Medicare or the Australian Immunisation Register.

Important to Note:

Delays in producing a compliant AIR Immunisation History Statement may impact a child's planned commencement date. In some circumstances, where the required AIR status cannot be obtained within the timeframe advised by the School in conjunction with the proposed commencement date, Margaret River Montessori School may be unable to hold the offered place. Where this occurs, the child may need to rejoin the waitlist for future placement consideration. Any placement fee already paid will be retained and applied towards a future placement offer, where applicable, in accordance with the School's policies. We recognise that families may make different decisions regarding immunisation for a variety of personal, cultural, religious or medical reasons. We also appreciate that immunisation can be a sensitive topic and that every family has their own circumstances and reasons for the decisions they make. Our intention is simply to provide clear information, explain the requirements that apply to schools in Western Australia, and help families prepare well in advance of their child's commencement. Where legislative requirements apply, Margaret River Montessori School is required to administer them fairly, consistently and respectfully for every family. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us meet these obligations.

We understand that immunisation requirements and Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) records can sometimes be confusing. If you have any questions about the documentation required during the application or admission process, please contact the Enrolments Officer. We are always happy to assist families in understanding the requirements, identifying the documentation needed and planning ahead to help ensure a smooth commencement.

