

# SPLEEN AUSTRALIA

Information for people living without  
a functioning spleen

HEALTH UPDATE

VOLUME #1

Date 8th June 2020

Spleen Australia  
Alfred Health  
Burnet Building  
85 Commercial Road  
Melbourne VIC 3004

03 9076 3828 (VIC & TAS)  
1800 775 336 (QLD)  
spleenregistry@alfred.org.au  
www.spleen.org.au

## GREAT NEWS: FREE VACCINES

**From the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2020, vaccines recommended for people without a functioning spleen will be funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP)**

The free vaccines include

- Bexsero (Meningococcal B)
- Nimenrix (Meningococcal ACWY)
- Prevenar 13 (13-valent pneumococcal conjugate)
- Pneumovax 23 (23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide)
- Act-HIB (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b)

### What is the National Immunisation Program (NIP)?

The NIP provides free vaccines to eligible people to help reduce diseases that can be prevented by vaccination.

### How do I know which vaccines I need?

You and your GP can find the latest vaccine recommendations on our website [www.spleen.org.au](http://www.spleen.org.au), or in The Australian Immunisation Handbook <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>.

### Where can I get immunised?

Make an appointment with your general practitioner (GP) to receive the vaccinations. In some cases you may also receive the vaccinations in a hospital.

### Are there any cost to get the vaccines?

The vaccines are free but your GP may charge you for the appointment or administration of the vaccines.

.....

In order to keep you up to date with the latest Spleen Australia activities and medical recommendations it is vital we have your up to date contact details, including mobile or home phone number, personal email address and postal address.

To update your contact details, please send us an e-mail at [spleenregistry@alfred.org.au](mailto:spleenregistry@alfred.org.au) or call us 03 9076 3828 (VIC and TAS) or 1800 775 336 (QLD)

.....

To help us reduce our carbon footprint please provide us with your e-mail address if you received this update via mail.

### Important change to vaccine schedule

#### Update to Pneumovax 23 recommendations

From 1st July 2020, the number of lifetime doses of Pneumovax 23 is now limited to 2 for all people. Review of the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and past vaccination records is recommended. If you have already exceeded more than 2 doses in a lifetime no further action is required.



Spleen Australia

AlfredHealth



# SPLEEN AUSTRALIA

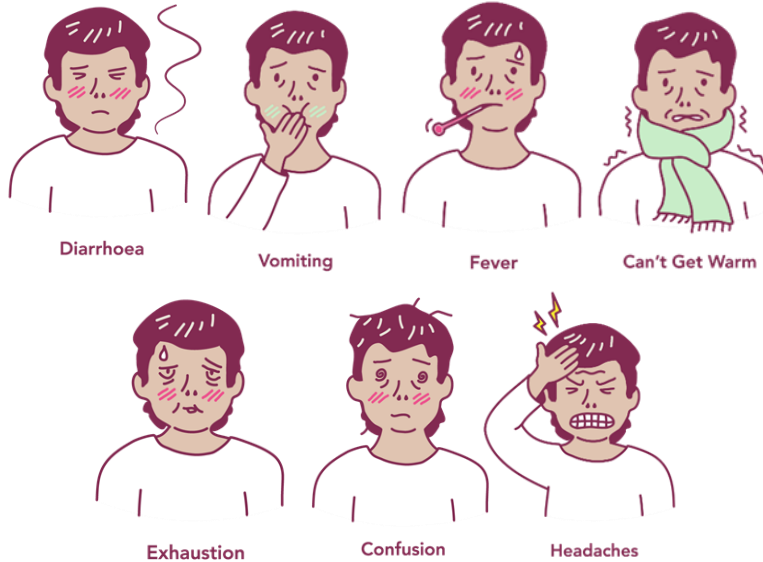
Information for people living without  
a functioning spleen

HEALTH UPDATE

VOLUME #1

Date 8th June 2020

**Seek medical attention straight away if you experience the below symptoms. Start your emergency supply of antibiotics if you develop a fever and are awaiting medical review.**



### APP UPDATE—SPLEEN-IE

Due to Covid-19, we have had to delay the release of the app. Updates on this will be posted to the website.

### PATRON—DARYL BRAITHWAITE

Spleen Australia is proud to announce that Daryl Braithwaite is our new patron. Please see the website for more information.

## Congenital Asplenia Study

The Monash Health Infectious Diseases Department is recruiting adult patients born without a spleen or functioning spleen as part of a research project focusing on these conditions (congenital asplenia, hyposplenia or polysplenia). A doctor will review you to assess eligibility. Participants will be asked to take a test to assess spleen and immune function. In some cases where there are more than two family members affected without a prior documented genetic diagnosis, genetic testing may be offered. Immunisation history will also be reviewed and vaccines administered as required. This project has been approved by Monash Health Human Research Ethics Committee. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Dr Grace Butel-Simoes

Email: [grace.butelsimoes@monashhealth.org](mailto:grace.butelsimoes@monashhealth.org) T: 03 9594 4564

