Catch-up vaccination aims to provide the best protection against disease as quickly as possible by completing a child’s recommended vaccination schedule.

1 **Confirm the child’s vaccination history**

- Review the child’s vaccination history to determine whether they are up to date.
- If you cannot confirm previous vaccination, assume the child has not received that vaccine. Children can safely receive most vaccines as additional doses.
- If you are not sure how to plan the catch-up schedule, or if the catch-up is complicated, seek further advice from your state or territory health authority.

2 **Plan a catch-up schedule**

**Consider laboratory testing for immunity to some diseases**

- Consider laboratory testing to guide catch-up vaccination for:
  - hepatitis A and B
  - MMR
  - varicella

- Do not use laboratory testing for any other diseases.
- Do not use past infection to guide the catch-up schedule.

**Consider valid doses**

- Check that any previous doses were received at the correct age and dosing intervals.

- In almost all cases, do not repeat valid doses — count them as part of the schedule.

**Refer to catch-up resources**

- Use the catch-up resources in the Australian Immunisation Handbook to help plan a catch-up schedule.

3 **Start the catch-up schedule**

- Discuss the catch-up schedule with the parent or carer before starting.

See the Australian Immunisation Handbook for more details.