



Year 7 School-based immunisation program – information for parents

Why is immunisation important?

Immunisation protects people from infectious diseases which carry a high risk of serious illness, disability and death. Vaccines trigger an immune response which protects people if they come into contact with the disease again in the environment.

All vaccines currently available in Australia must pass strict safety tests before being approved. Vaccines are continually checked to make sure they are safe and effective. All medicines and vaccines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. For information about vaccine safety and common and rare side-effects, please read more at: healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation

School-based immunisation program

Through this program, your child is offered free, routine and recommended vaccines to protect against:

- diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) – 1 injection
- human papillomavirus (HPV) – 2 injections at least 6 months apart. It is important your child receives both doses for best protection.

You can read more about these diseases and the vaccines used to protect against them at: healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation

What you need to do

The immunisation consent pack contains information and a consent form.

As a parent or guardian, you are required to:

1. read the enclosed consent form and vaccine fact sheet carefully, and visit healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation or contact your school nurse if you need more information
2. tick the red or green box in the consent form, to indicate which vaccines you are consenting to, and any you are not, then sign in the space provided
3. provide information on the consent form about medical problems that may affect your child's response to immunisation.
4. return the completed form to school, **even if you are declining immunisation.**

You may be contacted by the nurse if they require further information.

Only students with a signed, completed form will be vaccinated.

If your child did not receive their immunisation on the day, you will be notified, and alternative immunisation options will be offered.

Before your child is vaccinated

Mild, common illness, such as a cold with a low-grade fever, should not delay vaccination. However in some cases it is recommended that vaccination be withheld or delayed due to underlying medical conditions. Let your immunisation nurse or school know if your child:

- has had a severe reaction following any past vaccination
- has a history of severe allergy where vaccination is not recommended
- has had a live vaccine within the last month e.g. tuberculosis, measles, yellow fever
- has had an injection of immunoglobulin or whole blood transfusion in the last three months
- has a disease that lowers immunity, (e.g. leukaemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS) or is having treatment which lowers immunity (e.g. steroid drugs such as hydrocortisone or prednisolone, radiotherapy, chemotherapy)
- lives with someone who has a disease that lowers immunity or who is having treatment that lowers immunity
- is unwell at the time of vaccination.

Care after immunisation

The injection site may be red and swollen – apply a cool damp cloth.

There may be some pain, fever, headache or tiredness. For headache and pain, give paracetamol as directed on the label. If fever persists, consult your doctor.

Visit healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation for more information about common and rare side effects to vaccines.

Immediately seek medical advice if there is a reaction that you think is serious or unexpected.

All immunisation providers in WA are required by law to report an adverse reaction following immunisation. Parents can also report concerns about any serious reactions after immunisation. Learn more at healthywa.wa.gov.au/WAVSS or call 6456 0208.

Immunisation records

Following vaccination, students will receive a record of the vaccines they have received.

All vaccines administered through the school-based program are recorded in the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

You can access your child's Immunisation History Statements from the AIR to check their vaccinations are up to date.

Contacts

Your local doctor

Your local community health centre, hospital or public health unit

healthywa.wa.gov.au/publichealthunits

healthdirect Australia

Phone: 1800 022 222

More information

Department of Health

healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation

Commonwealth Department of Health

1800 671 811 or

health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation



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