

Year 7 - Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - Vaccine given as a single dose

About	HPV is a very common virus that affects both females and males. There are more than 100 types of HPV. Certain types of HPV cause common warts on the hands and feet and other types cause genital warts and cancers. There are about 40 types of HPV that affect the genital area. Up to 80% of males and females who have had any kind of sexual activity involving genital contact will be infected with at least one type of genital HPV at some time. The HPV vaccine offers protection against more than 90% of HPV strains and is most effective when given in early adolescence well before a person becomes sexually active and possibly exposed to HPV.
How is it spread?	HPV can live both inside and outside the genital area and sometimes the mouth or throat. It is spread through direct skin to skin contact with a person infected with HPV and can occur without any symptoms or visible signs. There is currently no treatment for HPV. In most people, the virus is cleared naturally in one to two years. HPV may persist and cause cell changes that lead to cancer.
Symptoms	Most genital HPV infections do not cause any symptoms and people usually do not know they have the infection. Some types of HPV can cause visible genital warts and other types of HPV can be detected in females by a Cervical Screening Test.
Complications	HPV can cause genital warts, cervical, vulval, vaginal, penile, and anal cancers, and is also associated with some cancers of the mouth and throat.
Vaccination can prevent disease	Since the National HPV Vaccination Program began in 2007, there has been a 90% reduction in genital warts in young people as well as a decrease in high grade cervical abnormalities. The HPV vaccine provided in the school program is called Gardasil®9. It protects against nine types of HPV - seven that can cause cancer and two that cause warts. The vaccine works by causing the body to make antibodies that fight HPV. If an immunised person comes into contact with HPV, the antibodies in their blood will fight the virus and protect them against being infected. It usually takes several weeks after vaccination to develop protection against HPV. The vaccine cannot cause HPV infection or cancer. Immunising your child on time against HPV helps protect them from a range of cancers.
Immunocompromised individuals	Immunocompromised children (with major medical conditions listed below*) require three doses of Gardasil®9 given at 0, 2 and 6 months to attain adequate protection and may not be able to be vaccinated in the School Immunisation Program. Please consult your doctor to discuss HPV vaccination for your child. *Primary or secondary immunodeficiencies (B lymphocyte antibody and T lymphocyte complete or partial deficiencies), HIV infection, malignancy, organ transplantation, autoimmune disease, or significant immunosuppressive therapy (excluding asplenia or hyposplenia).
Is the vaccine safe?	Yes. Worldwide, extensive clinical trial and post marketing safety surveillance data indicate that HPV vaccines are well tolerated and safe. HPV vaccines have been offered since 2007 and are considered to be extremely safe. Talk to Gold Coast Health, your doctor or 13 HEALTH (13432584) if you have any concerns.
What does it contain?	The HPV vaccine contains virus like particles. It also contains additives in very small amounts to either assist the vaccine to work or to act as a preservative.
Are there any side effects?	Like all medications, vaccines may have side effects but compared to the risk of disease, most side effects are minor, last a short time and do not lead to any long-term problems. Serious side effects such as severe allergic reaction are extremely rare. Minor side effects that may be experienced include pain, redness, swelling or nodule (small hard lump) at the injection site. Headache and generally feeling unwell is commonly reported among adolescents and young adults.
Where can I get more information about HPV vaccine?	Visit the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance: HPV information and fact sheet at: HPV vaccination NCIRS or go to the Queensland Health website: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) (health.qld.gov.au)
Further Information	To get more information contact: Gold Coast Public Health Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone: 1800 940 750 • Email: admin.immuniseqc@health.qld.gov.au • Website: Immunisation Gold Coast Health OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an appointment with your doctor • Contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) • Visit the Australian Immunisation website: Immunisation Queensland Health

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (Whooping Cough) - Vaccine given as 1 combined dose

About	Diphtheria is caused by bacteria that can infect the mouth, throat and nose, and skin wounds.	Tetanus is a serious illness caused when wounds are infected by bacteria present in soil.	Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly contagious respiratory disease. It can affect people of any age. In adolescents and adults, the infection may only cause a persistent cough. However, for babies and young children, whooping cough can be life threatening.
How is it spread?	When an infected person coughs or sneezes or by contact with skin sores or objects contaminated by an infected person.	Through a cut or wound which becomes contaminated by the bacteria.	When an infected person coughs or sneezes.
Symptoms	Extremely sore throat and breathing difficulties and can produce nerve paralysis and heart failure.	Tetanus causes painful muscle spasms, convulsions, and lockjaw.	May include runny nose, sore watery red eyes and fever. It then progresses to a severe cough that may last for months where the person may gasp for air causing a "whooping" sound and may have severe coughing spasms followed by gagging and vomiting.
Complications	About one in 15 people infected with diphtheria will die.	About 3% of people who develop tetanus in Australia will die.	Complications of whooping cough in babies include pneumonia, seizures and brain damage from prolonged lack of oxygen. About 1 in 120 babies aged less than 6 months will die from complications of whooping cough.
Vaccination can prevent disease	The safest and most effective way to prevent these diseases is through vaccination. A full course of vaccination provides long lasting protection against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. Your child may have received vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) as a preschooler. The vaccine offered to adolescents is a booster dose to maintain effective immunity. Fully vaccinated students will not require another booster for diphtheria and tetanus until they reach 50 years of age unless an injury places them at risk of tetanus. There is no herd immunity for tetanus.		
How many doses?	One dose of a combined diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (dTpa) vaccine is offered.		
Is the vaccine safe?	This vaccine is safe for adolescents and adults. The incidence of fever is low and there may be some soreness around the injection site. The benefit of protection against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis gained from this immunisation are likely to outweigh the risk of an adverse event.		
What does it contain?	The vaccine contains diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis toxoids. The vaccine also contains additives in very small amounts to assist the vaccine or to act as a preservative.		
Are there any side effects?	Like all medications, vaccines may have side effects but compared to the risk of disease, most side effects are minor, last a short time and do not lead to any long-term problems. Common side effects that may occur include redness and soreness at the injection site, fever, nausea, headache, tiredness and/or aching muscles. Headaches and generally feeling unwell are commonly reported among adolescents and young adults. Serious side effects such as severe allergic reaction are extremely rare.		
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