

Immunisation made easy.

School Immunisation Program – information for Year 7 students

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

Vaccine given in 2 doses at least 6 months apart

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 percent 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 percent 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. In rare cases, 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. HPV can be detected in females on a Pap smear or by visible genital warts.
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	<p>The National HPV Vaccination Program commenced in 2007 and has been credited with dramatically reducing the incidence of the HPV infection and disease in Australia. A 2015 study has shown more than a 90 percent reduction in genital warts among young Australians aged up to 21 years since the introduction of the HPV vaccine.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The vaccine cannot cause HPV infection or cancer. Immunising your child on time against HPV helps protect them from a range of cancers.</p>
How many doses?	In year 7, two single doses of the vaccine are given at least 6 months apart. If any dose is missed, your child may not be fully protected. If your child does not commence vaccination till 15 years of age, three doses of HPV vaccine will be required.
Immuno-compromised individuals	<p>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 immunisation for your child.</p> <p>*Primary or secondary immunodeficiencies (B lymphocyte antibody and T lymphocyte or partial deficiencies); HIV infection; malignancy; organ transplantation; autoimmune disease; or significant immunosuppressive therapy (excluding asplenia or hyposplenia)</p>
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 your doctor or 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) if you have any concerns.
What does it contain?	The HPV vaccine contains virus like particles. It also contains additives, including yeast, aluminium adjuvant, sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate and sodium borate. These additives are included in the vaccine in very small amounts to either assist the vaccine to work or to act as a preservative.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) continued

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 pain, redness and swelling at the injection site; low grade fever; feeling unwell; headache; and fainting. Serious side effects such as severe allergic reaction are extremely rare.
Where can I get more information about HPV vaccine?	Visit the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance: HPV information and fact sheet at: www.ncirs.org.au/public/ncirs-position-statement-hpv-vaccination or go to the Queensland Health website http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/80/Human-Papilloma-Virus-HPV

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, fits 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.		
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 toxoid, tetanus toxoid, and purified components of a live-weakened <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> . The vaccine also contains very small amounts of aluminium hydroxide/phosphate, formaldehyde, polysorbate and glycine to either 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. Serious side effects such as severe allergic reaction are extremely rare.		

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School Immunisation Program – information for Year 10 students

Meningococcal disease

About	<p>Meningococcal disease is a rare but severe infection that occurs when meningococcal bacteria invade the body from the throat or nose.</p> <p>Meningococcal bacteria are carried in the nose and throat of a small proportion of healthy people (in about 10%) and are spread through close prolonged contact. The bacteria are more commonly found in teenagers and young adults. There are a number of different strains of meningococcal bacteria. Worldwide, the main strains that cause meningococcal disease are A, B, C, W and Y.</p> <p>Most people with meningococcal infection fully recover, but some people who survive can develop long-term health complications including limb deformity, skin scarring, deafness and possible loss of brain function. Meningococcal W disease has a higher death rate than meningococcal C and meningococcal B infections and may be fatal in about 1 in 10 cases.</p>
How is it spread?	<p>It is not easy to catch meningococcal disease. While the bacteria can be spread via droplets from the nose or throat during coughing and sneezing, close and prolonged contact with a person who has the bacteria in their nose or throat is usually needed for the bacteria to spread. As meningococcal bacteria cannot live long outside of the body, the infection can also not be picked up from water supplies, swimming pools, bed linen or pillows.</p> <p>After exposure to the bacteria, it usually takes from three to four days to become ill, although sometimes it can be as little as one day or as long as 10 days.</p>
Symptoms	<p>Meningococcal disease occurs in two main forms (or a combination of these two forms):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">meningococcal meningitis – when the bacteria infect the lining around the brain and spinal cordmeningococcal septicaemia – when the bacteria invade the bloodstream and cause blood poisoning. <p>In older children and adults symptoms of meningitis can include headache, fever, vomiting, neck stiffness, drowsiness and confusion, and discomfort looking at bright lights.</p> <p>There may also be a rash, particularly with meningococcal meningitis where there is often a characteristic purplish-red rash which does not fade under pressure.</p> <p>If anyone has the above symptoms, seek urgent medical attention. Early treatment can sometimes prevent serious complications.</p>
Complications	<p>Meningococcal infections can progress rapidly to serious disease or death in previously healthy persons and long term effects may include limb deformity, skin scarring, deafness or loss of brain function.</p>
Vaccination can prevent disease	<p>Some types of meningococcal disease can be prevented with immunisation and these include meningococcal A, B, C, W, and Y.</p> <p>There is no single vaccine that provides protection against all strains of meningococcal disease.</p> <p>This School Immunisation Program is offering free meningococcal ACWY vaccination to all Year 10 students. This vaccine does not include protections against the meningococcal B strain.</p> <p>Free meningococcal ACWY vaccine is also available for 15 to 19 year olds from your GP.</p>
How many doses?	<p>One dose of meningococcal ACWY vaccine is required.</p>
Is the vaccine safe?	<p>The meningococcal ACWY vaccine is safe and effective. Meningococcal ACWY vaccination programs targeting adolescents have been effectively implemented in the UK since 2015 and in the US since 2005.</p>

Meningococcal disease continued

What does it contain?	The vaccine contains the antigens of four serogroups (A, C, W135 and Y) which are conjugated to a carrier protein. It also contains other additives in very small amounts to either assist the vaccine to work or to act as a preservative.
Are there any side effects?	Serious side effects from the vaccine are extremely rare. Minor side effects that may be experienced include tenderness, redness or swelling at the site of injection and, low grade fever.
Why is meningococcal ACWY vaccine being offered to Year 10 students?	Some of the highest rates of meningococcal carriage occur among 15 to 19 year olds and this age group can transmit the meningococcal bacteria to people who are at increased risk of infection, including young children. Vaccinating 15 to 19 year olds aims to reduce the risk of meningococcal disease caused by strains A, C, W and Y in this age group, and to reduce the spread of meningococcal disease caused by these strains. Vaccinating this group will protect these individuals immediately and the wider community in the longer term.
What if my child has already been vaccinated against meningococcal C?	People who have been vaccinated against meningococcal C in childhood are still recommended to receive the meningococcal ACWY vaccine in adolescence. Vaccination against meningococcal C has been included in the National Immunisation Program Schedule since 1 January 2003. From 2003 to June 2008, meningococcal C vaccine was provided in a catch-up program for all children aged 1 to 19 years. This means that many Year 10 students will have received meningococcal C vaccine.
What if my child has already been vaccinated against meningococcal ACWY?	If your child received a meningococcal ACWY vaccine since they turned 14 years old, they do not need to be vaccinated in the school program. Adolescents who have previously received a conjugate meningococcal ACWY vaccine (Menactra®, Menveo® or Nimenrix®), for example via private prescription, can receive another dose of meningococcal ACWY vaccine, even if the previous dose was within the past five years. There should be at least a four week interval between doses. Repeat vaccination carries no additional risk of adverse reactions.
Where can I get more information about meningococcal disease?	Visit the Gold Coast website at: www.goldcoast.health.qld.gov.au/our-services/immunisation Queensland Health website at: www.conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/33/95/meningococcal-disease National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance at: www.ncirs.org.au/ncirs-fact-sheets-faqs/meningococcal-vaccines-australians Australian Government website to access resources about the meningococcal ACWY vaccine including information in other languages at: www.health.gov.au/health-topics/meningococcal-disease Call: 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) Make an appointment with your doctor