

## Year 7 Secondary School Vaccine Program

Consent card – complete, sign and return to the school

1. Read the information provided in PART B (pages 3 to 6).
2. Complete PART A (pages 1 & 2) and sign if a Yes, for each of the three vaccine programs.
3. Return PART A to the school, even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated.

Contact your local council for more information.

Student details													
Medicare number	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> </table> (Number beside child's name)	<input type="text"/>											
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Surname	First name												
Postal address													
Postcode													
Date of birth	Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/>												
School name	Class												
Is this person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?													
No <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/>													
Parent or guardian contact details													
Name of parent or guardian													
Daytime phone	Mobile												
Email													

### Further information

If you require further advice or information, please contact your local council immunisation service or local doctor.

Or visit the following websites:

- [immunehero.health.vic.gov.au](http://immunehero.health.vic.gov.au)
- [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)
- [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au)
- [www.hpvregister.org.au](http://www.hpvregister.org.au)



Translating and  
interpreting service  
Call 131 450

### Accessibility

To receive this publication in an accessible format, email [immunisation@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

## Year 7 Secondary School Vaccine Program

Consent card – complete, sign and return to the school

Declaration: I am authorised to give consent or non-consent for my child to be vaccinated and by giving consent, I understand my child will be given separate vaccines for diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough, chickenpox, and human papillomavirus. I have read and I understand the information given to me about vaccination, including the risks of not being vaccinated and the side effects of vaccines. I understand I can discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with my local council or doctor. I understand that consent can be withdrawn at any time before vaccination takes place.

### Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

YES, I consent to my child receiving three doses of HPV vaccine at school (three injections, over six months).

Parent or guardian signature

X

Date:

OR

NO, I do not consent to my child receiving the HPV vaccines at this time.

OR

NO, my child has had the HPV vaccines elsewhere. Dates: 1st dose:

2nd dose:

3rd dose:

### Chickenpox vaccine

YES, I consent to my child receiving the chickenpox vaccine at school (one injection).

Parent or guardian signature

X

Date:

OR

NO, I do not consent to my child receiving the chickenpox vaccine at this time.

OR

NO, my child has had the chickenpox vaccine elsewhere. Please read Part B – Does your child need the chickenpox vaccine?

### Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine

YES, I consent to my child receiving the diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine at school (one injection)..

Parent or guardian signature

X

Date:

OR

NO, I do not consent to my child receiving the diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine at this time.

OR

NO, my child has had the diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine elsewhere.

If your child is being vaccinated, do they have any pre-existing medical conditions or severe allergies, or have they had previous severe reactions to vaccines? Yes  No

If yes, please provide details.

---



---

Return PART A (pages 1 & 2) to the school, after completing required information.

## Year 7 Secondary School Vaccine Program

Parent or guardian information – read and keep

1. Read the information provided in PART B (pages 3 to 6).
2. Complete PART A (pages 1 & 2) and sign if a Yes, for each of the three vaccine programs.
3. Return PART A to the school, even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated.

Contact your local council for more information.

### Why should I have my child immunised?

- Immunisation is the safest and most effective way to stop the spread of many infectious diseases.
- The protection provided by some childhood vaccines fades and needs to be boosted in adolescence and for other vaccines, adolescence is the best time for the vaccine to be given.
- Vaccines not only protect your child from harmful diseases, but offer important benefits for the long-term health of the community.
- If enough people in the community are immunised, the diseases can no longer be spread from person to person in the community.
- The Secondary School Vaccine Program is only offered in Year 7 at school. If your child does not receive the vaccines at this time, you may be charged a cost for your child to receive the vaccines at a later date.
- All vaccines in Australia are tested for safety and effectiveness before they are approved for use. This testing is required by law. Australia has a national surveillance system, which reports and monitors adverse events following immunisation.

If you change your mind, you can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting your local council. Details on back.

### On the day of the vaccinations:

- your child should have breakfast
- your child should wear a top that is suitable for the upper arm/s to be exposed
- your child may have more than one injection – this will not increase risk of side effects
- notify immunisation staff if your child is anxious
- a record of each vaccine administered will be given to your child – store this safely.

### Privacy statement

The Year 7 Secondary School Vaccine Program is funded by the Australian and Victorian governments and delivered by local councils. Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, local councils are responsible for coordinating and providing immunisation services to children being educated within the municipal district. Local councils are committed to protecting the privacy, confidentiality and security of personal information, in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2000* and the *Health Records Act 2001*. Personal information is not disclosed to third parties, except as outlined below. The local council may provide you with information related to the school vaccine program via SMS or email. You can access your data by contacting your local council, using the details provided. Aggregate immunisation data may be disclosed to Victorian and Australian government agencies for the purpose of monitoring, funding and improving the Year 7 Secondary School Vaccine Program. This information does not identify any individual.

### National HPV Vaccination Program Register (HPV Register)

The HPV Register collects information about the program. Personal identifying details will be kept confidential. The information collected is used to administer the program effectively, through sending reminders, a completion statement once all three doses are received, and notifying recipients in the future should booster doses be required. Information is also used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, through monitoring vaccine uptake and eventually by linking vaccination history to the Pap test and cancer registers. You can choose not to have your information sent to the HPV Register by contacting your local council.

### What is the National Immunisation Program?

An Australian government, state government and local council initiative, the National Immunisation Program aims to protect the community from vaccine preventable diseases. As part of the program, free vaccines are offered to, and recommended for, Year 7 secondary school students.

The following vaccines are recommended for Year 7 secondary school students:

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) (three separate injections in the upper arm, given over a six month period)
- Chickenpox (a single injection in the upper arm) and
- Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough (single injection in the upper arm).

Vaccines are administered by immunisation nurses, employed by local council immunisation services, who visit each Victorian secondary school a number of times a year.

## Human papillomavirus (HPV) information

### What is human papillomavirus?

HPV is a very common virus in men and women. It is very common to be infected with one or more types of HPV shortly after sexual activity starts. Most HPV infections cause no symptoms and are cleared from the body in less than a year without the person knowing they were infected. Some types of HPV can cause genital warts and some cancers. These cancers include cervical cancer in women, cancers of the genital area in men and women, and some cancers of the mouth and throat.

### What are the benefits of receiving the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine GARDASIL® protects against two HPV types which cause 70 per cent of cervical cancer in women and 90 per cent of HPV-related cancers in men. It also protects against an additional two HPV types which cause 90 per cent of genital warts.

The vaccine provides best protection when it is given to someone before they become sexually active. The vaccine prevents disease but does not treat existing HPV infections.

### How is the vaccine given?

The HPV vaccine consists of three injections given into the upper arm over a six month period.

### How long will vaccine protection last?

Recent studies have shown good continuing protection against HPV. Studies are ongoing to determine if a booster dose will be necessary in the future.

### How safe is the HPV vaccine?

It is safe and well tolerated. Worldwide millions of doses have been given. The vaccine does not contain HPV but appears similar enough to the virus so that the body produces antibodies, which prevent HPV infection.

### Will girls need Pap tests later in life?

Yes, because the vaccine doesn't prevent all types of HPV infection that cause cervical cancer, Pap tests are still essential for women later in life. Pap tests are recommended for all women every two years, starting at age 18 or two years after first becoming sexually active, whichever is later. Having regular Pap tests further reduces the risk of developing cervical cancer.

### What are the possible side effects?

#### Common side effects

- Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- A temporary small lump at the injection site
- Low grade fever
- Feeling unwell
- Headache
- Fainting may occur up to 30 minutes after any vaccination.

If mild reactions do occur, the side effects can be reduced by:

- drinking extra fluids and not over-dressing if the person has a fever
- taking paracetamol and placing a cold, wet cloth on the sore injection site.

#### Uncommon side effects

- Rash or hives

It is recommended that anyone who has a rash or hives after a vaccine should talk with their immunisation provider before having further doses of that same vaccine.

#### Rare side effect

- A severe allergic reaction, for example facial swelling, difficulty breathing.

In the event of a severe allergic reaction, immediate medical attention will be provided. If reactions are severe or persistent, or if you are worried, contact your doctor or hospital.

#### Pre-immunisation checklist

Before your child is immunised, tell your doctor or nurse if any of the following apply.

- Is unwell on the day of immunisation (temperature over 38.5°C)
- Has had a severe reaction to any vaccine
- Has any severe allergies such as an anaphylactic reaction to yeast
- Is pregnant.

**After vaccination wait at the place of vaccination a minimum of 15 minutes.**

## Chickenpox (Varicella) information

### Does your child need the chickenpox vaccine?

#### My child has had chickenpox infection, what should I do?

If you are sure that your child has had chickenpox infection, then the vaccine is not needed. However the vaccine can be safely given to children who have had chickenpox infection.

#### I am not sure my child has had chickenpox infection, what should I do?

Your child should be vaccinated.

#### My child has had one chickenpox vaccine, should a second vaccine be given now?

Yes, two doses of chickenpox vaccine provide increased protection and reduce the risk of chickenpox occurring at a later time.

#### My child has had one chickenpox vaccine and chickenpox infection, what should I do?

If you are sure that your child has had chickenpox infection, then the vaccine is not needed. However the vaccine can be safely given to children who have had chickenpox infection.

### Chickenpox disease

Chickenpox is a highly contagious infection caused by the varicella zoster virus. Chickenpox is spread through coughs and sneezes and through direct contact with the fluid in the blisters of the rash.

It is usually a mild disease of short duration in healthy children; sometimes chickenpox will develop into a more severe illness such as bacterial skin infections resulting in scarring, pneumonia or inflammation of the brain. Adults who contract chickenpox generally experience more severe symptoms. Chickenpox may also be a risk to an unborn baby if contracted during pregnancy. Chickenpox can cause serious illness and even death in all ages.

The incubation period for chickenpox is 10 to 21 days, followed by the appearance of a rash of red spots initially, then becoming blisters within hours. The spots usually appear on the trunk, face and other parts of the body. Most people infected with chickenpox have a fever and feel unwell and may experience severe itching.

Anyone who has never had chickenpox before can catch it. Prior to the vaccine program, about 75 per cent of people caught chickenpox before 12 years of age.

### Chickenpox vaccine

The chickenpox vaccine contains modified live virus at a reduced strength and a small amount of the antibiotic, neomycin.

### Possible side effects of chickenpox vaccine

#### Common side effects

- Fever
- Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- A temporary small lump at the injection site
- Fainting may occur up to 30 minutes after any vaccination.

If mild reactions do occur, the side effects can be reduced by:

- drinking extra fluids and not over-dressing if the person has a fever
- taking paracetamol and placing a cold, wet cloth on the sore injection site.

### Uncommon side effects

About two to five chickenpox-like spots may occur usually at the injection site and sometimes on other parts of the body between five and 26 days after vaccination and last for less than one week.

If this occurs the person should avoid direct contact with people with low immunity until the spots dry out.

#### Extremely rare side effect

- A severe allergic reaction.

In the event of a severe allergic reaction, immediate medical attention will be provided. If reactions are severe or persistent, or if you are worried, contact your doctor or hospital.

### Pre-immunisation checklist

Before your child is immunised, tell the doctor or nurse if any of the following apply.

- Has had a vaccine containing live viruses within the last month (such as MMR or chickenpox)
- Is unwell on the day of immunisation (temperature over 38.5°C)
- Has any severe allergies
- Has had a severe reaction following any vaccine
- Has a disease or is having treatment which causes low immunity (for example HIV/AIDS, leukaemia, cancer, radiotherapy or chemotherapy)
- Is taking steroids of any sort other than inhaled asthma sprays or steroid creams (for example cortisone or prednisone)
- Is pregnant
- Has received immunoglobulin or a blood transfusion in the last three months or intravenous immunoglobulin in the last nine months.

**After vaccination wait at the place of vaccination a minimum of 15 minutes.**

## Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough information

### Diphtheria

Diphtheria is caused by bacteria which are found in the mouth, throat and nose. Diphtheria causes a membrane to grow around the inside of the throat. This can make it difficult to swallow, breathe and can even lead to suffocation.

The bacteria produce a poison which can spread around the body and cause serious complications such as paralysis and heart failure. Around ten per cent of people who contract diphtheria die from it.

Diphtheria can be caught through coughs and sneezes from an infected person.

### Tetanus

Tetanus is caused by bacteria which are present in soils, dust and manure.

The bacteria can enter the body through a wound which may be as small as a pin prick. Tetanus cannot be passed from person to person.

Tetanus is an often fatal disease which attacks the nervous system. It causes muscle spasms first felt in the neck and jaw muscles. Tetanus can lead to breathing difficulties, painful convulsions and abnormal heart rhythms.

Because of the effective vaccine, tetanus is now rare in Australia, but it still occurs in adults who have never been immunised against the disease or who have not had their booster vaccines.

### Whooping cough

Whooping cough is a highly contagious disease which affects the air passages and breathing. The disease causes severe coughing spasms. Coughing spasms are often followed by vomiting and the cough can last for months.

Whooping cough can be caught through coughs or sneezes from an infected person.

Protection against whooping cough both from the disease and the vaccine decreases over time. Therefore a booster dose of whooping cough vaccine is recommended for adolescents aged between 11 and 13 years to maintain immunity into adulthood.

### Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine

The diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine contains a small amount of diphtheria and tetanus toxins which are modified to make them harmless, small parts of purified components of whooping cough, a small amount of aluminium salt and preservative.

This booster vaccine has lower concentrations particularly of diphtheria and whooping cough components compared with the children's vaccine.

The vaccine is safe and well tolerated in adolescents and adults.

This combination vaccine can be given any time after a recent tetanus-containing vaccine is given.

### Possible side effects of diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine

Most side effects are minor and quickly disappear. If the following reactions occur, it will be soon after the vaccination.

#### Common side effects

- Mild temperature
- Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- A temporary small lump at the injection site
- Feeling unwell
- Fainting may occur up to 30 minutes after any vaccination.

If mild reactions do occur, the side effects can be reduced by:

- drinking extra fluids and not over-dressing if the person has a fever
- taking paracetamol and placing a cold, wet cloth on the sore injection site.

#### Extremely rare side effects

- Brachial neuritis (severe pain, shoulder and upper arm)
- Severe allergic reaction.

In the event of a severe allergic reaction, immediate medical attention will be provided. If reactions are severe or persistent, or if you are worried, contact your doctor or hospital.

#### Pre-immunisation checklist

Before your child is immunised, tell your doctor or nurse if any of the following apply.

- Is unwell on the day of immunisation (temperature over 38.5°C)
- Has any severe allergies
- Has had a severe reaction to any vaccine
- Is pregnant.

After vaccination wait at the place of vaccination a minimum of 15 minutes.