



YEAR 7 ACT HIGH SCHOOL IMMUNISATION PROGRAM 2020

PARENT INFORMATION

Nurses providing the free Canberra Health Services High School Immunisation Program will be visiting your child's school soon.

All Year 7 students are offered the following vaccines:

- **Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (dTpa)** (1 dose required)
- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** (2 doses, 6 months apart)

CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

- Read** all of the information on this card. This information card can be detached and retained for your reference.
- Complete** the consent card, even if your child is **not** being vaccinated.
- Sign** the consent card.
- Return** the consent card to school **as soon as possible**.

Diphtheria

- Diphtheria is an acute infectious disease caused by bacteria that infects the mouth, nose and throat.
- It is easily spread through coughing and sneezing from an infected person and may cause a sore throat, hoarseness, fever, and difficulty breathing/swallowing.
- Major heart and nervous system complications can occur sometimes resulting in death.

Tetanus

- Tetanus disease is caused when a bacteria enters the body through a cut or a wound and causes the production of a harmful toxin.
- Symptoms may include painful muscle spasms, convulsions and lock jaw.
- It can cause serious medical complications including death.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

- Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory disease.
- It is spread through respiratory droplets from sneezing and coughing.
- Complications include, pneumonia, convulsions and brain damage. About 1 in 120 babies less than 6 months old die from complications of whooping cough.

Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (dTpa) Vaccine

- The dTpa vaccine provides protection for all three diseases.
- This dose in Year 7 is a booster dose from those given in early childhood
- Common side effects of the vaccine include fever, nausea, headaches and aching muscles as well as redness, soreness and swelling at the injection site.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- HPV is the name of a group of viruses that can cause genital warts and lead to some cancers in both males and females.
- It is spread by skin contact during all types of sexual activity.
- Genital warts may develop however there are often no symptoms of HPV. HPV can be detected through cervical screening.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

- Vaccination can help protect everyone from some of the most common types of HPV.
- The vaccine is most effective when given before a person becomes sexually active.
- Common side effects of the vaccine include headache, fever, dizziness/fainting, nausea and vomiting as well as redness, soreness and swelling at the injection site.

IMPORTANT

Does my child still need the dTpa vaccine if they have recently received a tetanus booster vaccine after an injury?

An ADT Booster (Absorbed Diphtheria and Tetanus) Vaccine given after an injury does not protect against Pertussis. Therefore it is recommended and safe for the student to still receive this dTpa vaccine.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE VACCINES

- Vaccines are administered by an injection to the upper arm.
- All vaccines can cause mild reactions. They are usually short lasting and do not require any special treatment.
- Very rarely an individual may experience a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine. The school immunisation nurses are trained to recognise and manage any immediate severe reactions. These generally occur within the first 15 minutes after receiving a vaccine. All students are monitored closely by school immunisation nurses during this time.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

What if my child is absent or refuses the vaccines on the day that the nurses visit the school?

If you have completed and returned a consent card, at the end of the year you will receive a letter advising you of any missed vaccines and how to catch up at your GP.

What if my child is not participating in the School Immunisation Program?

Please still complete the consent card and return it to your school as soon as possible. You will be able to access these vaccines FREE from your GP from 1st December 2020. Some GPs may charge a consultation fee.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Health Protection Service, Immunisation Unit

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.51pm

Phone: 02 5124 9800

Website: www.health.act.gov.au/services/immunisation

School Immunisation Program

Phone: 02 5124 1585

Website: www.health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/immunisation/adolescents

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50

For further accessibility information, visit www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility