



YEAR 10 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 10 students are offered the following vaccine:

- **Meningococcal ACWY**
(1 dose required)

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**.

Meningococcal Disease

- Meningococcal bacteria are carried in the nose and throat of healthy individuals and are spread through prolonged household contact, including kissing.
- Meningococcal disease occurs when these bacteria enter the bloodstream.
- Symptoms of meningococcal disease include fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, sore muscles, and sometimes a red or purple rash.
- The disease can progress very quickly and can lead to death or permanent disability.
- Young people are at an increased risk of the disease and are more likely to spread the disease to others.

Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine

- The meningococcal vaccine is the best protection against meningococcal disease.
- It provides protection against four strains, A, C, W and Y.
- It does not contain any live bacteria and cannot cause the meningococcal disease.
- Common side effects of the vaccine include localised pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, tiredness, headache, fever, nausea, rash and a reduced appetite.



IMPORTANT

Does my child still need this vaccine if they already received the Meningococcal C vaccine in early childhood?

Yes. The meningococcal ACWY vaccine will safely boost protection against the C strain, as well as providing protection against the A, W and Y strains.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE VACCINE

- 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 this vaccine FREE from your GP now. 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