Year 7 Secondary School Vaccine Program consent card

Complete and return to school

How to complete the form

1. Read the information provided.
2. Complete the Vaccine consent section for each vaccine program and sign or type your name if a Yes.
3. Return the consent sections to the school even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated.

Contact your local council for more information. See the Further information section.

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®9 protects against seven HPV types which cause over 90 per cent of cervical cancer in women and over 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 given at a younger age and when it is given to someone before they become sexually active. The vaccine prevents disease but does not treat existing HPV infections.

By vaccinating your child you are preventing them from being infected with a cancer-causing virus.

How is the vaccine given?

For children aged 14 years and under at the time of the first dose, the HPV vaccine consists of two injections given into the upper arm with the second dose given at least six months after the first. Please read the pre-immunisation checklist to see if your child needs three doses.

How long will vaccine protection last?

Recent studies have shown good continuing protection against HPV lasting for over 10 years to date. Studies are ongoing to determine if a booster dose will be necessary in the future but this is not thought to be likely.

How safe is the HPV vaccine?

It is safe and well tolerated. Worldwide over 200 million doses have been given over the last decade. The vaccine does not contain HPV but appears similar enough to the virus so that the body produces antibodies, which prevent HPV infection.

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Will girls need cervical screening tests later in life?

Yes, because the vaccine doesn't prevent all types of HPV infection that cause cervical cancer, cervical screening tests are still essential for women later in life. Having regular cervical screening tests further reduces the risk of developing cervical cancer.

What are the possible side effects?

Common side effects

These indicate that your child's immune system is responding to the vaccine.

- 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

Some children need a three-dose course of Gardasil®9 vaccine.

To ensure your child receives the correct spacing of the three doses, your child must attend their GP or a local council immunisation service.

Three doses of Gardasil®9 vaccine are recommended for:

- a child aged 15 years or over
- a child who has a disease or is having treatment which causes low immunity (for example HIV/AIDS, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, radiotherapy, chemotherapy or significant immunosuppressive treatment).

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.

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 10 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.

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

These indicate that your child's immune system is responding to the vaccine.

- 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.

Further information

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

Or visit the following websites:

Better Health Channel <http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au>

Immunise Australia Program <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au>

National HPV Vaccination Program Register <http://www.hpvregister.org.au>

Translating and interpreting service call 131 450

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) (two separate injections in the upper arm, over six months apart)
- Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough (a 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.

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.
- In Australia, vaccines are registered for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA has a surveillance system which monitors and reports adverse events following immunisation.

If you change your mind, you can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting your local council. See the Further information section.

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.

Consent form for:

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine consent and Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine

Student details

Medicare number (including number beside child's name)	
Surname	
First name	
Postal address	
Postcode	
Date of birth	
Gender	<please indicate gender>
School name	
Class	

Is this person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? Mark chosen response with an 'X'

No	
Aboriginal	
Torres Strait Islander	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	

Parent or guardian contact details

Name of parent or guardian	
Daytime phone	
Mobile	
Email	

Vaccine consent

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, 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

Please mark your chosen response, below, with an 'X'.

YES, I consent to my child receiving two doses of HPV vaccine at school (two injections, six months apart).	
If you have selected 'Yes' above please sign or type your name.	
Date you signed this form.	

No, I do not consent to my child receiving the HPV vaccine at this time.					
No, my child has had the HPV vaccine elsewhere.					
If your child has had the HPV vaccine elsewhere please type the dates of each dose					
1st dose:		2nd dose:		3rd dose: (if applicable)	

Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine

Please mark your chosen response, below, with an 'X'.

YES, I consent to my child receiving the diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine at school (one injection).	
If you have selected 'Yes' above please sign or type your name.	
Date you signed this form.	
No, I do not consent to my child receiving the diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine at this time.	
No, my child has had the diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough booster vaccine elsewhere.	

If your child is being vaccinated, please type here any pre-existing medical condition, severe allergies or previous severe reaction to vaccination.

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 *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Health Records Act 2001*.

Local councils report vaccines given through school programs to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and the National HPV Vaccination Program Register (HPV Register). Personal identifying details will be kept confidential. These details are for the purpose of providing targeted improved health services for all Victorian children. In addition the details enable tools such as recall and reminder systems to improve vaccination rates. This is important to improve immunisation rates overall. Individuals will have access to their record of all vaccines recorded in the AIR and HPV Register. Aggregate immunisation data may be disclosed to the Victorian government for the purpose of monitoring, funding and improving the Year 7 Secondary School Vaccine Program. This information does not identify any individual.

Information related to you or your child will be used or disclosed for purposes directly related to your child's immunisation, and in ways that you would reasonably expect. This may include the transfer or exchange of relevant information to your GP, to your child's GP, to another treating health service or hospital or another local council. The local council may provide you with information related to the school vaccine program via SMS or email. You can access your child's data by contacting the local council where your child attends school.

Office use only

Vaccine	Vaccination date	Nurse initials	Site: L/R arm
HPV 1st dose:			
HPV 2nd dose:			

Vaccine	Vaccination date	Nurse initials	Site: L/R arm
Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough			

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