



# Year 8 immunisation program – information for parents

## Why is immunisation important?

Immunisation protects people from infectious diseases which carry a high risk of serious illness, disability and death. Vaccines trigger an immune response which protects people if they come into contact with the disease again in the environment.

All vaccines currently available in Australia must pass stringent safety tests before being approved. Vaccines are continually monitored for safety and effectiveness. Read more about vaccine safety and common and rare side effects: [healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation)

## Year 8 vaccination program

In Australia, year 8 students are offered free vaccines through the National Immunisation Program to protect against:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Whooping cough (pertussis)
- Chickenpox (varicella)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV).

You can read more about these diseases and the vaccines used to protect against them at:

[healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation)

## Schedule

WA Health and local community nursing teams conduct the vaccinations each term at your child's school according to the schedule below:

- 1st visit:** Human papillomavirus (HPV)  
Chickenpox (varicella)
- 2nd visit:** Human papillomavirus (HPV)  
Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTPa)
- 3rd visit:** Human papillomavirus (HPV).

## What parents need to do

This immunisation consent pack has been provided to you via your child's year 8 school program. The pack contains information and a consent form.

As a parent or guardian, you are required to:

- read the consent form in the pack carefully, and contact your school nurse if you need more information
- tick the red or green box, to indicate which vaccines you are consenting to, and any you are not, then sign in the space provided
- provide information on the consent form about medical problems that may affect your child's response to vaccination.
- return the completed form to school, **even if you are declining vaccination.**

You may be contacted by the nurse if they require further information.

**Only students with a signed, completed form will be vaccinated.**

Vaccination day will be announced in your weekly school newsletters. If your child did not receive their vaccination on the day, you will be notified, and alternative vaccination options will be offered.

## Before your child is vaccinated

Mild, common illness, such as a cold with a low-grade fever, should not delay vaccination. However in some cases it is recommended that vaccination be withheld or delayed due to underlying medical conditions. Let your immunisation nurse or school know if your child:

- has had a severe reaction following any past vaccination
- has a history of severe allergy where vaccination is not recommended
- has had a live vaccine within the last month (e.g. tuberculosis, measles, yellow fever)
- has had an injection of immunoglobulin or whole blood transfusion in the last three months
- has a disease that lowers immunity, (e.g. leukaemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS) or is having treatment which lowers immunity (e.g. steroid drugs such as hydrocortisone or prednisolone, radiotherapy, chemotherapy)
- lives with someone who has a disease that lowers immunity or who is having treatment that lowers immunity
- is unwell at the time of vaccination.

## Care after vaccination

The injection site may be red and swollen – apply a cool damp cloth.

There may be some pain, fever, headache or tiredness. For headache and pain, give paracetamol as directed on the label. If fever persists, consult your doctor.

Visit [healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation) for more information about common and rare side effects to vaccines.

Immediately seek medical advice if there is a reaction that you think is serious or unexpected.

All immunisation providers in WA are required by law to report an adverse reaction following immunisation. Parents can also report concerns about any serious reactions after vaccination either online at [wavvs.health.wa.gov.au](http://wavvs.health.wa.gov.au), or by phoning the Central Immunisation Clinic on 9321 1312

## Vaccination records

Following vaccination, students will receive a record of the vaccines they have received.

All vaccines administered through the school based program are recorded in the WA Health schools based database.

In addition, HPV vaccinations are recorded in the National HPV register: [hpvregister.org.au](http://hpvregister.org.au)

## Contacts

### Central Immunisation Clinic

Phone: 9321 1312 8.30am–4.30pm weekdays

### Your local doctor

### Your local community health centre, hospital or public health unit

[healthywa.wa.gov.au/publichealthunits](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/publichealthunits)

### healthdirect Australia

Phone: 1800 022 222

## More information

### Department of Health

[healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation)

### Immunise Australia Program

1800 671 811 or [immunise.health.gov.au](http://immunise.health.gov.au)  
[hpv.health.gov.au/for-parents](http://hpv.health.gov.au/for-parents)



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