

Year 10 NSW School Vaccination Program



NSW Health works with schools to offer a free Meningococcal ACWY vaccine to Year 10 students in a school-based vaccination program. The vaccines are recommended under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

This Parent Information Sheet explains what the vaccine is for and what disease it helps protect against.

To have your child vaccinated at school, you need to give your permission (consent) either online or by filling out and returning the paper consent form.

The vaccine is free in Year 10 under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

To do

1. Read the information provided about the vaccination.
2. Sign the consent form — you can do this online or on a paper consent form.
3. Return the consent form back to school if you complete a paper consent form.
4. Talk to your child about getting vaccinated.

How to give consent

To give consent online visit:

<https://engage.health.nsw.gov.au/engage>

You will need:

- Medicare card details for you and your child
- name of the secondary school your child is attending in Year 10
- your Service NSW login details (this is the same account you might use to renew your driver's licence).

If you don't have a Service NSW account, you can create one by visiting www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/myservicnsw-account/how-to-create-an-account.

Or, you can call Service NSW on 13 77 88, Monday to Friday, between 7am and 7pm.

Accessibility, interpreter, and translation services are available through this number.

No Medicare card?

Ask your child's school for a paper consent form.

For more information on how to give consent you can watch the *Providing consent for your child to receive a vaccination at school* video on the NSW School Vaccination program webpage: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/online-consent-school-vaccination.aspx>.

The NSW Health Privacy Statement that explains how the information you provide is collected and used is also included.

To provide consent scan this code



Frequently asked questions and information

On vaccination day:

- make sure your child eats a good breakfast
- get your child to wear a short-sleeve shirt (like a sports uniform)
- reassure your child that after their vaccine, they can still play sport, shower, and do after-school activities as usual.

Q. Why should I get my child vaccinated?

Vaccination is the best way to protect against serious diseases that spread easily.

Vaccines protect your child and help keep the whole community healthy.

When enough people are vaccinated, diseases stop spreading from person to person.

Q. How do vaccines work?

Vaccines teach your child's body how to fight off harmful germs before they can cause serious illness.

This means your child either doesn't get sick at all, or they get a much milder illness.

Q. Are vaccines safe?

Yes, vaccines are safe. In Australia, they must pass very careful safety checks before they can be used. These checks are done by a group called the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Even after vaccines are approved, the TGA keeps monitoring them to make sure they stay safe.

Q. What are the side effects of vaccination?

Most side effects from vaccines are mild. Your child might feel some pain, swelling, or redness where the needle went in or have mild a fever, headache or mild nausea (feeling sick). Serious side effects are very rare.

Q. What's in the vaccine?

Vaccines don't just contain weakened or inactive parts of the virus or bacteria to train your immune system; they also include small amounts of other ingredients to help them work better and stay safe. These ingredients are all present in very small amounts and are safe for use in vaccines.

If you want to know more about the vaccine, you can read the Consumer Medicines Information (CMI) for each vaccine at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school-vaccination-parents.aspx#vEaccines>.

Q. What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a very serious allergic reaction. It can cause breathing difficulties and can even be life-threatening if not treated quickly. It happens very rarely after getting a vaccine.

School immunisation nurses are trained to treat anaphylaxis. Any history of anaphylaxis to vaccine components, or a severe allergy to the same vaccine components, may mean that your child should not receive a certain vaccine without first seeking advice from your GP or immunisation specialist.

Q. What if my child missed out on getting the vaccine at school?

Don't worry — there are still options. Your child's school may host another clinic later in the year. If that is possible, the school will let you know about the catch-up arrangements.

You can also take your child to your local GP, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service.

Just keep in mind: the vaccine is free, but the GP might charge a consultation fee.

Q. Can I withdraw consent?

Yes. You can withdraw your consent at any time.

If you gave consent online:

- withdraw up to 24 hours before the clinic at <https://engage.health.nsw.gov.au/engage>
- less than 24 hours before? Contact your school directly.

If you gave consent on a paper form:

- write, email, or call the school before the clinic.

Q: How can I get a record of my child's vaccinations?

You can get it through the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

- Your child's vaccination details will be added to their record in the AIR.

- If your child is under 14, you (the parent or guardian) can request their immunisation history.
- If your child is 14 or older, they can request it themselves.

You can get the record:

- **Online:** Log in to your Medicare account through myGov: <https://my.gov.au>
- **App:** Use the Medicare Express Plus app – more info at <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/express-plus-mobile-apps>
- **Phone:** Call the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809.

Q. Where can I find more information about school vaccination?

You can find more details in 2 ways:

1. **Online:** Visit the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination
2. **Phone:** Call your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.



Information about Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

About	<p>The meningococcal ACWY vaccine is offered to all students in Year 10, to protect against 4 strains (A, C, W, Y) of meningococcal disease.</p> <p>Meningococcal ACWY vaccine is free under the NIP for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• babies at 12 months of age• adolescents aged 14 years and over in Year 10, via the School Vaccination Program. <p>Anyone aged 15 to 19 years who is not enrolled in school, or who has missed their dose at school, can access the free vaccine at their GP, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service.</p>
What is Meningococcal disease and how is it spread?	<p>Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious illness caused by a bacterial infection. It can lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meningitis – swelling of the lining around the brain and spinal cord• Septicaemia – blood poisoning and possible loss of fingers and toes. <p>Meningococcal disease spreads through saliva from the back of the nose and throat. This usually happens when someone has close and long contact with a person carrying the bacteria – even if that person seems completely healthy.</p> <p>Examples of close contact include living in the same house, deep or intimate kissing.</p>
Symptoms?	<p>The symptoms can come on suddenly and may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fever• headache• stiff neck• joint pain• nausea or vomiting• sensitivity to bright light• a red or purple rash that looks like bruises and may be a late sign of infection. <p>Even with the right treatment, about one in 10 people with the disease may die. Some survivors may have long-term health problems, such as limb amputation, deafness, vision impairment, learning difficulties and brain damage.</p>
Can the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine prevent meningococcal disease?	<p>Yes. The meningococcal ACWY vaccine gives strong protection against four types of meningococcal bacteria – types A, C, W, and Y. Just 1 dose is recommended to protect your child from getting seriously sick from these types.</p> <p>But it's important to know that this vaccine doesn't protect against type B, which is a different kind of meningococcal bacteria. There's a separate vaccine for meningococcal type B.</p>
Are there any side effects?	<p>There might be some minor side effects, these are normal and shouldn't last more than a day or two. These might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a red, swollen or sore arm where the needle went in• a mild fever• mild headache• muscle aches• tiredness <p>If you're worried or your child feels unwell after the vaccine, it's a good idea to talk to your doctor or nurse.</p>
Is the vaccine safe?	<p>Yes. The meningococcal ACWY vaccine has been used safely in the school vaccination program since 2017. Studies and safety checks show it's well tolerated and considered very safe. The meningococcal ACWY vaccine continues to be monitored for ongoing safety: https://ausvaxsafety.org.au/national-immunisation-program-schedule-vaccines/14-16-years-schedule-point.</p>

Translations available in 28 languages

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school_vaccination_language.aspx