

# Year 7 NSW School Vaccination Program



NSW Health works with schools to offer free vaccinations to Year 7 students in a school-based vaccination program. The vaccines are recommended under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

This Parent Information Sheet explains what the vaccines are for and what diseases they help 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.

## Which vaccines are offered?

### Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (dTpa)

One 3-in-1 injection which boosts immunity from vaccine given in early childhood. The vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough).

### Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

One injection protects against strains of HPV linked to cervical and other cancers.

## 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 7
- 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/myservicensw-account/how-to-create-an-account](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/myservicensw-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 web page: <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
- wears a short-sleeve shirt (like a sports uniform)
- after the 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.
- Some vaccines like the diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough vaccine wear off over time, so booster shots are needed during the teenage years.
- Vaccines like the HPV vaccine work best when given in early teenage years because the immune system is stronger at that age.
- Vaccines protect your child and help keep the whole community healthy.
- When enough people are vaccinated, diseases stop spreading from person to person and protect those who could not be vaccinated.

### 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#vaccines>.

### 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?

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.

Note for parents of girls receiving the HPV vaccine; by signing the consent form, you agree to share your child's health information so it can be linked to the National

Cervical Screening Program Register in the future.

## 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](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination)
2. **Phone:** Call your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

## Information about Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

<b>About</b>	The HPV vaccine is offered to <b>boys and girls</b> in Year 7, to protect against cancers caused by HPV such as cervical cancer, head and neck cancers, genital cancers, and genital warts. The HPV vaccine works best when given in early teenage years, because the immune system is stronger at that age.
<b>What is HPV and how is it spread?</b>	HPV is a group of viruses that can affect both males and females. It spreads through skin-to-skin contact, especially in the genital area.
<b>Symptoms?</b>	Most people with HPV don't show any symptoms and may not know they have it. Some types can cause visible warts, while others can lead to changes in cells that may cause cancer over time.
<b>Can the HPV vaccine prevent HPV?</b>	Yes. Without a vaccination program, 4 out of 5 people will be infected with HPV over their lifetime. The HPV vaccine provides almost 100% protection against the 9 HPV types it targets, especially when given before exposure to the virus. It works best when given in early adolescence (i.e., before becoming sexually active).
<b>How many HPV vaccine doses does my child need?</b>	Most adolescents only need 1 dose of the HPV vaccine. Adolescents with weakened immune systems need 3 doses. If you think your child might need extra doses, talk to your doctor.
<b>Are there any side effects</b>	There might be some minor side effects, these are normal and shouldn't last more than a day or two. These might include: a red, swollen or sore arm where the needle went in; mild fever; mild headache; muscle aches; tiredness; feeling a bit sick (nausea). If you're worried or your child feels really unwell after the vaccine, it's a good idea to talk to your doctor or nurse.
<b>Is the vaccine safe?</b>	Yes. The HPV vaccine has been used safely around the world since 2007. Studies and safety checks show it's well tolerated and considered very safe. The HPV vaccine continues to be monitored for ongoing safety: <a href="https://ausvaxsafety.org.au/national-immunisation-program-schedule-vaccines/12-13-years-schedule-point">https://ausvaxsafety.org.au/national-immunisation-program-schedule-vaccines/12-13-years-schedule-point</a>
<b>Do vaccinated girls still need cervical screening?</b>	Yes. The HPV vaccine doesn't protect against all types of HPV. Women aged 25 and over who have ever been sexually active should have a cervical screening test every 5 years, even if they've had the vaccine.

# Information about Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (dTpa) vaccine

	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Pertussis (whooping cough)
<b>About</b>	Diphtheria is a serious illness caused by bacteria. It can make it hard to breathe, cause skin sores, and affect the heart or nerves.	Tetanus is caused by germs found in dirt, dust, and animal faeces. It affects the nerves and can cause painful muscle cramps, a stiff jaw (lockjaw), and other problems like pneumonia or broken bones from the cramps.	Whooping cough is a very contagious illness caused by bacteria. It leads to bad coughing and trouble breathing. It can be life-threatening for babies, and in older kids and adults, the cough can last for months.
<b>How is it spread?</b>	Through tiny droplets in the air when someone coughs or sneezes.  It can also spread through close contact with fluid from an infected person's mouth, nose, throat, or skin.	When tetanus germs enter the body through a cut or wound.  You can't catch tetanus from another person.	Through tiny droplets in the air when someone coughs or sneezes.
<b>Symptoms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Trouble swallowing or breathing</li> <li>• Swollen neck</li> </ul> <p>In some cases, it can damage the heart and nerves, and it can be life-threatening.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle spasms, especially in the jaw (called "lockjaw")</li> <li>• Stiffness in the neck, shoulders, or back</li> <li>• Trouble swallowing or breathing</li> <li>• Fever and sweating</li> </ul> <p>Even with modern hospital care, about 1-in-10 people who get tetanus may die.</p>	<p>Early symptoms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a blocked or runny nose</li> <li>• feeling tired</li> <li>• a mild fever</li> <li>• coughing fits that can be very strong.</li> </ul> <p>These coughing fits often come with a "whooping" sound when the person breathes in after coughing.</p> <p>Whooping cough can be very dangerous for babies and may lead to life-threatening infections.</p>
<b>Can the dTpa vaccine prevent infection?</b>	<p>Yes. The 3-in-1 dTpa booster is given as a single dose during the teenage years to keep protection strong as people get older.</p> <p>The vaccine works really well to protect against diphtheria and tetanus and protects about 8 out of 10 people from getting whooping cough.</p>		
<b>Common side effects of the dTpa vaccine include</b>	<p>There might be some minor side effects, these are normal and shouldn't last more than a day or two.</p> <p>These might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a red, swollen or sore arm where the needle went in. Occasionally, a hard lump may form at the injection site, but no treatment is necessary for this.</li> <li>• mild fever.</li> </ul> <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>		
<b>Is the vaccine safe?</b>	<p>Yes. The dTpa vaccine is well tolerated and considered very safe. The dTpa vaccine continues to be monitored for ongoing safety: <a href="https://ausvaxsafety.org.au/national-immunisation-program-schedule-vaccines/12-13-years-schedule-point">https://ausvaxsafety.org.au/national-immunisation-program-schedule-vaccines/12-13-years-schedule-point</a></p>		

## Translations available in 28 languages

[https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school\\_vaccination\\_language.aspx](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school_vaccination_language.aspx)

