

# Year 7 Queensland School Immunisation Program Information Sheet

The Queensland School Immunisation Program offers free HPV (human papillomavirus) and diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines (dTpa) to all Year 7 students.

The best time to be vaccinated against these diseases is during Year 7.

To get the vaccine, we need consent from a

parent, legal guardian, or authorised person. Here's what you need to do:

- Read and discuss this information with your child.
- Please tick "YES, I consent" next to each vaccine you and return it to your child's school.

By following these steps, your child gets the important immunisations they need to stay healthy and protected.

## About diphtheria

- Diphtheria is caused by a type of bacteria that can infect the mouth, throat, nose, and wounds.
- It is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- It can lead to a sore throat, breathing difficulties, nerve paralysis, and heart failure. It can cause death.

## About tetanus

- Tetanus is caused by a type of bacteria in soil that enters the body through cuts or wounds.
- It can lead to painful muscle cramps, seizures, and difficulty opening the mouth (lockjaw). In rare cases it can cause death.

## About pertussis (whooping cough)

- Whooping cough is a very contagious respiratory disease.
- It is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- Whooping cough starts with symptoms like a runny nose, fever, and sore eyes. It can progress to severe coughing fits, gasping for air, and "whooping" sounds. It may cause complications like pneumonia, seizures, and brain damage in babies. It can be life-threatening.

## About human papillomavirus

- HPV is the name of a very common group of viruses that affect both males and females. Some types of HPV cause genital warts while other types can lead to various cancers (cervical, vulval, vaginal, penile, anal, and some mouth and throat cancers).
- HPV spreads through skin-to-skin contact with an infected person. Most people with HPV do not have any symptoms.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What happens if I don't return the consent form?

- Your child won't be vaccinated without a completed and signed consent form.
- If you do not return a completed consent form, your personal information may be provided by the school to the School Health Program provider under section 213AD of the *Public Health Act 2005* (Qld) to enable follow-up.
- This process helps ensure that families are aware of the program and their available options.
- If your school's program is delivered by a contracted provider, they may either contact you directly or share your information with the relevant Hospital and Health Service to follow up.

### How We Protect Your Privacy

- Your personal information is protected under the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld).
- For more information, or to view our Privacy Policy or make a complaint, call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or visit the Queensland Health website: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/global/privacy>

### What if I don't want my child to be vaccinated through the School Immunisation Program?

- Tick "NO, I do not consent" on the consent, sign the form, and return it to the school.

### Can I withdraw my consent?

- Yes, you can withdraw consent to vaccination at any time by contacting the school's immunisation provider. Please contact your child's school to find out their contact details.

### Are the vaccines safe?

- All vaccines used in Australia are safe.
- Vaccines may cause mild reactions. They are usually short-lasting and do not require special treatment.
- Very rarely, a person may experience a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine, usually within the first 15 minutes of receiving a vaccination. Your child will be closely monitored during this time. School Immunisation Program staff are trained to recognise and manage any severe reactions if they occur.

### What should my child do on the day of vaccination?

- Have breakfast and stay hydrated.

### What if my child can't be vaccinated at school or misses a dose?

- You should ensure your child is vaccinated as soon as possible so they are protected and can protect people around them.
- Your child can attend a catch-up session if offered by the school immunisation provider, or you can take your child to a doctor, pharmacy, or community immunisation clinic. The vaccines are free, but there might be a consultation fee charged by the provider.

### Will I receive a record of the vaccinations?

- Yes, your child will receive a *Record of Vaccination* card and the vaccination details will be added to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). AIR records can be viewed online through myGov using a Medicare account.

### What should I do if a reaction occurs after vaccination?

- If your child complains of pain at the injection site, use a cold, damp cloth to relieve the pain.
- Give paracetamol if your child has pain or fever.
- If you are worried about an unexpected reaction, contact your doctor or seek other medical attention.

## Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine (dtpa)

- The dtpa vaccine is given as one combined dose and protects against all three diseases. Vaccination also helps to stop diseases from spreading to vulnerable people.
- Your child should still be vaccinated with dtpa even if they have received a tetanus booster vaccine after an injury.
- The dtpa vaccine is safe. Most side effects are minor and short-lasting. These may include redness, soreness at the injection site, fever, nausea, headache, tiredness, or muscle aches. Please note on the consent form if your child is allergic to latex, as latex may be present in the vaccine cap.

## HPV vaccine

- The HPV vaccine protects against seven cancer-causing types of HPV and two wart-causing types of HPV. The vaccine is recommended before becoming sexually active to get the most protection.
- Children with certain medical conditions (e.g. immunocompromised children) may need three doses of the vaccine to be fully protected. Check with your doctor for more information.
- The HPV vaccine is safe. Most side effects are minor and short-lasting. These may include pain, redness, and swelling at the injection site, low-grade fever, feeling unwell, headache, or fainting.

## Where can I get more information?

- Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
- For help with translation or other languages, call 131 450 or read the translated fact sheets on [immunisation.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/translated-fact-sheets/about-immunisation/translated-fact-sheets](http://immunisation.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/translated-fact-sheets/about-immunisation/translated-fact-sheets)

- Contact your doctor
- Watch videos about high school vaccination [www.health.qld.gov.au/resources/collections/vaccination-videos-for-high-school-students](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/resources/collections/vaccination-videos-for-high-school-students)
- Visit the Queensland School Immunisation Program webpage [www.health.qld.gov.au/diagnostic-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/schools](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/diagnostic-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/schools) or use the QR code (below)
- Deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired people can contact us through the National Relay Service:
  - » Telephone typewriter (TTY) users phone 133 677
  - » Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727
- Internet relay users connect to the National Relay Service at [www.accesshub.gov.au](http://www.accesshub.gov.au)

