2026 Year 10
School Immunisation Program

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian

All students in **Year 10** will be offered free vaccines for both meningococcal B and meningococcal ACWY.

Meningococcal B and meningococcal ACWY vaccines are recommended for all adolescents after they turn 14 years age, even if they have received previous doses of a meningococcal C, ACWY or B vaccine.

Getting your child vaccinated at school is simple and straightforward.

A trained vaccination team will visit your child's school. Your child will receive two injections at the first school visit: one meningococcal B vaccine and one meningococcal ACWY vaccine, and if indicated, the second meningococcal B vaccine at least 8 weeks later.

Included with this letter is the ***Year 10 Consent Card***. **Please read both sides of this page before completing the Consent Card and discuss these vaccines with your child.**

It is important that you complete the Consent Card and return it to the school, even if you DO NOT consent.

Consent may be withdrawn at any time by contacting your **School Immunisation Program provider. It is important to contact the School Immunisation Program provider if the student has received the vaccine/s elsewhere before the school visit or if other information provided on the Consent Card needs to be updated.**

In South Australia, students can legally consent for themselves if they are aged 16 years or over.

If your child is unwell or not at school on vaccination day, the School Immunisation Program provider will advise how your child can access the missed vaccine.

Immunisations are recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register. An immunisation history statement can be accessed from either the individual's **Medicare online account** through **myGov**, or the **Express Plus Medicare** mobile app.

Due to privacy laws, anyone aged 14 years or older needs to access their own statement or give permission for their parents/legal guardians to access their immunisation history statement.

Privacy

- The information you provide on the Consent Card, and information related to vaccines administered will be stored electronically and/or in hard copy as a medical record. This information will be disclosed to staff involved in the provision of an immunisation service for SA Health and local government councils and their immunisation providers. The immunisation records will be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register where it will be stored on your child's Medicare account.
- If you are concerned that personal information has been misused or subject to unauthorised access, contact your School Immunisation Program provider. If the issue remains unresolved, contact SA Health Immunisation Section on 1300 232 272.

For more information on recommended adolescent vaccination offered in the School Immunisation Program visit:

skai.org.au/adolescent/vaccinating/14-16-years

For more information

Immunisation Section
Communicable Disease Control Branch
sahealth.sa.gov.au/SIP

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Government of South Australia
SA Health

Year 10 School Immunisation Information

Meningococcal B and meningococcal ACWY immunisation

- caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningococcus)
- although rare, meningococcal infection is serious and potentially life threatening
- there are several different strains of meningococcus; A,B,C,W and Y are the most common
- meningococcal B is the most common type of meningococcal disease in South Australia
- meningococcal B and meningococcal ACWY vaccines are recommended for adolescents and young adults as they are at increased risk of meningococcal disease
- some people may carry the bacteria in the nose and throat without developing disease (carriers)
- adolescents and young adults have the highest rate of meningococcal carriage and are thought to play an important role in transmitting the bacteria in a community
- spreads through infected droplets or through close contact with contaminated nose and throat secretions
- invasive meningococcal disease occurs when the bacteria 'invade' the body from the throat or nose
- usually causes meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and/or septicaemia (infection of the blood)
- may also cause pneumonia (lung infection), septic arthritis (joint infection) or conjunctivitis (eye infection)
- **invasive meningococcal disease can cause death within hours from onset of symptoms**
- **5-10% of people with invasive meningococcal disease die despite rapid treatment**
- **30-40% of children and adolescents who survive the disease have permanent complications**

Complications include:

- loss of limbs
- limb deformity
- skin scarring
- deafness
- vision problems
- learning difficulties

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

- can protect against meningococcal A,C,W and Y strains
- recommended for all students in year 10 due to their higher risk of meningococcal disease caused by types A, C, W and Y
- is given as a single dose
- can be given at the same time as the meningococcal B vaccine

If your child has previously received a dose of a Meningococcal ACWY vaccine before turning 14 years of age, one further booster dose should be given now.

Common side effects of vaccine

- pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- fever
- headache
- nausea/decreased appetite
- fatigue

Meningococcal B vaccine

- can protect against most of the circulating meningococcal B strains
- recommended for all adolescents aged 15-19 years due to their higher risk of meningococcal B disease
- can be given at the same time as the meningococcal ACWY vaccine

If the student has received any previous dose/s of meningococcal B vaccine before 14 years of age;

1 valid dose received – 2 further doses required at school.

2 valid doses received – 1 further dose required at school.

Common side effects of vaccine

- pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- fever
- headache
- painful muscles and joints
- nausea/decreased appetite
- generally feeling unwell

Scan to visit the School Immunisation Provider list

Studies show that most reactions are mild. Severe reactions to vaccines are very rare. If you need further information on the safety of vaccines, please contact your School Immunisation Provider or visit SA Health: sahealth.sa.gov.au/SIP