2026 Year 7
School Immunisation Program

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian

All students in **Year 7** are offered free vaccines under the National Immunisation Program to protect them from diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (dTpa), and human papillomavirus (HPV).

A trained vaccination team will visit your child's school. Your child will receive two injections: one combined vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (dTpa) and one human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

Getting your child vaccinated at school is simple and straightforward.

Included with this letter is the ***Year 7 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.

Your child may have already received some vaccines offered in the School Immunisation Program if they received catch up vaccines for missed childhood doses. Please make note of these details on the Consent Card.

Consent may be withdrawn at any time by contacting your **School Immunisation Program provider.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 on the Consent Card needs to be updated.**

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 vaccines.

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 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/12-13-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 7 School Immunisation Information

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

- very common virus
- spread by intimate or sexual contact
- up to 90% of the general population will be infected with at least one genital HPV type at some time in their lives
- most people do not experience symptoms and do not know if they have the infection or have spread it to someone else
- causes 90% of genital warts
- up to 10% of infections remain persistent, and can lead to HPV related cancers

Complications include:

- Up to 90% of genital cancers (penis, anus, vulva, vagina and cervix)
- Up to 60% of cancers of the mouth and throat.

HPV vaccine

- recommended as a single dose for all year 7 students
- if your child is immunocompromised, speak to your doctor or immunisation provider as 3 doses may be required
- protects against nine HPV types commonly related to genital cancers, throat and mouth cancers and genital warts
- provides a high level of protection if given to students before exposure to the HPV virus
- beneficial even if there has been exposure to the virus as it is unlikely that infection with all HPV types covered by the vaccine has occurred
- does not replace regular cervical screening for females aged 25-74 years as the vaccine protects against most, but not all types of HPV that cause cervical cancer.

Common side effects of HPV vaccine

- pain, swelling and redness at the injection site
- fever
- headache
- nausea
- muscle aches
- dizziness
- tiredness

Diphtheria

- serious infection of the throat and nose caused by a toxin produced by the bacterium *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*
- spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes or by direct contact with skin sores or objects/articles contaminated by an infected person
- 1 in 6 people infected will die

Complications include:

- severe breathing difficulties
- heart failure
- nerve paralysis or weakness
- death

Tetanus

- serious, often fatal, disease caused by a toxin produced by bacteria found in soil, dust and manure
- contracted through a puncture wound, cut or burn which becomes contaminated by the bacteria
- not directly transmitted from person to person
- most common in persons never vaccinated or those vaccinated more than 10 years ago
- 2 in 100 people infected will die

Complications include:

- serious heart problems
- blood clot in the lungs
- pneumonia
- death

Whooping cough (pertussis)

- highly infectious respiratory infection
- spread when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes
- can spread to up to 100% of household contacts and up to 80% of school contacts infected if they are not vaccinated or were vaccinated many years ago

Complications include:

- rib fractures
- persistent cough lasting up to 3 months
- pneumonia
- brain damage from lack of oxygen

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (dTpa)

- recommended as a single dose for all Year 7 students as an **additional** booster to doses already received in childhood
- recommended for students who have previously received the ADT Booster (Adsorbed Diphtheria and Tetanus) vaccine for a tetanus prone wound as it will offer protection against whooping cough

Common side effects of dTpa vaccines

- pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- fever
- headache
- nausea, generally feeling unwell
- muscle aches and joint pain
- tiredness

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