

# 2018 Year 8 School Immunisation Program

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian

Students in Year 8 are offered free vaccines under the National Immunisation Program to protect them from diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, and human papillomavirus (HPV).

A trained vaccination team will visit your child's school to offer these vaccinations.

Included with this letter is the **Year 8 Consent Card**. Please read the all the information provided on both sides of this page before completing the Consent Card. Keep this information for future reference.

**It is important that you complete the Consent Card and return it to the school, even if you DO NOT consent for your child to be vaccinated.**

**Your child may have already received some of the vaccines offered in the School Immunisation Program if he/she has recently received catch up vaccines for missed childhood doses. Please make note of these details on the Consent Card in the space provided.**

Consent may be withdrawn at any time prior to vaccination. Information provided on the Consent Card may be updated by contacting your school program provider.

Students will receive a vaccination record to take home. You are encouraged to keep this record. Vaccination records may be needed for future employment, study or travel.

If you have provided consent and your child is unwell or not at school on vaccination day, a letter will be sent to you with details on where to go to receive the missed vaccines.

## Further information is available at:

- > Immunise Australia: [www.immunise.health.gov.au/](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/)
- > National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance: [www.ncirs.edu.au/](http://www.ncirs.edu.au/)
- > HPV School Vaccination Program: [www.hpvvaccine.org.au](http://www.hpvvaccine.org.au)
- > SA Health – School Immunisation Program [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation)

## Privacy

The information you provide on the Consent Card will be stored by SA Health and be accessed by approved immunisation providers (council, community health or doctor) as a medical record. Vaccination details will be forwarded to relevant national immunisation registers.

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 on 1300 232 272.

## For more information

**Immunisation Section  
Communicable Disease Control Branch  
11 Hindmarsh Square  
Adelaide SA 5000  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation)**

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# Year 8 Parent/Legal Guardian Information Sheet

## Diphtheria

- serious illness caused by a toxin produced by bacteria that acts on the airways or on damaged skin
- 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/weakness
- death

## Tetanus

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

### Complications include:

- heart attack
- blood clot in the lungs
- pneumonia
- death

## Whooping cough (pertussis)

- highly infectious respiratory infection
- spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- about 90% of household contacts of an infected person will become infected if they are not vaccinated or were vaccinated many years ago

### Complications include:

- rib fractures
- seizures
- pneumonia
- brain damage from lack of oxygen

## Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (Boostrix®)

- is recommended as a single dose for all Year 8 students as an **additional** booster to doses already received in childhood
- is recommended for students who have previously received the ADT Booster (Adsorbed Diphtheria and Tetanus) vaccine for a tetanus prone wound to offer protection against whooping cough

### Common side effects of Boostrix® vaccine

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

## Human papillomavirus (HPV)

- very common virus that affects females and males
- spread by intimate or sexual contact
- most people do not experience symptoms and do not know they have the infection or that they have spread it to someone else
- causes 90% of genital warts

### Complications include:

- cancers of the genital area – penis, anus, vulva, vagina, and cervix
- cancers of the throat and mouth in both males and females

## HPV vaccine (Gardasil®9)

- is recommended as a 2 dose course in the School Immunisation Program
- if your child is immunocompromised, speak to your doctor or immunisation provider
- protects against nine HPV types most 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
- will still be 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 Pap smears for women as the vaccine protects against most, but not all types of HPV that cause cervical cancer. Further information is available from [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au) or your doctor

### Common side effects of Gardasil®9 vaccine

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

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 – [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation)