

# QUEENSLAND SCHOOL IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

## INFORMATION SHEET

# PREPARE AND PROTECT



The Queensland School Immunisation Program offers every Year 7 student in Queensland **free** immunisation against human papillomavirus (HPV) and diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough). Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) is a combined vaccine (dTpa) and is given as one injection.

**Signed parent/legal guardian/authorised person consent for the vaccine is required.**

To make sure all Year 7 students are offered the opportunity to participate, the *Public Health Act 2005* authorises school principals to disclose student and parent information to the school immunisation program provider so they can follow up with parents/legal guardians or authorised persons of students who do not return a Vaccination Consent card.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- It is very important to make sure your child is vaccinated in the **free** school program
- Read this information and discuss it with your child
- Read and complete the Vaccination Consent card making sure you sign and date your consent to each vaccination**
- Return the completed and signed Vaccination Consent card to your child's school as soon as you have completed it**
- If you **don't** want your child to be vaccinated through the school program, complete the 'No to Vaccination' section on the consent card
- If you **don't** return a consent card to your child's school or the consent card is incomplete, you may be contacted by the immunisation provider to check that you have been offered the opportunity for your child to participate in the free program
- After the vaccination clinic, your child will receive a **Record of Vaccination** card. Keep this with their other medical details and/or notify your doctor that the vaccine has been given. This information will also be directly provided to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)
- Keep this Information Sheet for future reference

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What vaccinations are being offered?

The School Immunisation Program offers every Year 7 student in Queensland free immunisation against human papillomavirus (HPV) and diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough). Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) is a combined vaccine (dTpa) and is given as one injection.

## Do I need to sign the consent card for my child to be vaccinated?

**YES. A completed consent card signed by a parent/legal guardian/ authorised person MUST be returned to school for a child to be vaccinated.** After both the student and parent/legal guardian or authorised person have read this information sheet, please complete the consent card, sign 'Yes' to vaccination in the consent section and return the card to school.

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

If you **don't** want your child to be vaccinated through the school program, complete and sign the 'No to Vaccination' section of the consent card, indicate why your child is not receiving vaccinations through the school program and return the consent card to the school.

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

Your child will not be vaccinated without a completed and signed consent card.

If you don't sign and return the consent card, you may be contacted by your school's immunisation provider to check that you have been offered the opportunity for your child to participate in the free program. The *Public Health Act 2005* authorises the school principal to provide your contact details to the school immunisation provider so they can follow up with the parent/legal guardian or authorised person of students who don't return a consent card.

## Can I withdraw my consent?

Yes. Please request the contact details of the immunisation provider from your child's school. If you wish to withdraw consent, if there are significant changes in your child's health, or if you are no longer the child's legal guardian, contact the immunisation provider in writing.

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

On the day of vaccination, your child should have an adequate breakfast. Please remind your child to bring the Record of Vaccination card home to you for your records.

### Please note:

The *Child Protection Act 1999 (Section 97)* authorises delegated officers to make immunisation arrangements for **children and young people in the custody or guardianship** of Child Safety Services. Additionally, **carers of children and young people under the guardianship** of Child Safety Services are authorised to make immunisation arrangements for children and young people in out of home care.

A copy of their *Authority to Care* form **must be provided** with the consent to vaccination. Please see the *Child Safety Practice Manual* for further information at [cspm.csyw.qld.gov.au](http://cspm.csyw.qld.gov.au)

## What if my child can't be vaccinated at school or misses the school clinic?

- Your child can attend a catch-up session if offered by the school immunisation provider, OR
- You can take your child to your doctor, community pharmacy, or other immunisation provider.

If you decide to take your child to your doctor, the vaccine will be free, however a doctor's consultation fee may apply. When you call to make an appointment you should advise the receptionist what vaccinations are required so they can order the vaccine.

## Will I receive a record of the vaccinations?

Yes. Your child will be given a Record of Vaccination card. Advise your doctor that the vaccination has been given the next time you visit. Please keep this card in a safe place for future reference.

This information will also be directly provided to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

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

1. If your child complains of tenderness at the injection site, put a cold damp cloth on the area to relieve the pain.
2. Only give paracetamol (as per directions) if pain and fever are present.
3. If your child has an unexpected reaction that you are concerned about please contact your doctor or seek medical attention.

## Will my child's vaccination details be kept private?

The School Immunisation Program consent card is collected by the Department of Health, a Hospital and Health Service, or a school health program provider engaged by a Hospital and Health Service (for the purpose of this Program referred to collectively as 'Queensland Health'). Personal information contained in the card is handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

As part of participation in the School Immunisation Program, Queensland Health collects details such as the student's name, contact information, Medicare number and relevant health information. Contact details for the parent/legal guardian or authorised person of the student are also collected. This information is needed to correctly deliver vaccinations and to record vaccination details on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). This information may be used by Queensland Health for recall, reminders, clinical follow up, or disease prevention, control, and monitoring. Your information will not be disclosed to other third parties without your consent, unless the disclosure is authorised or required by or under law.

For information about how Queensland Health protects your personal information, or to learn about your right to access your own personal information, please refer to the respective health agency's privacy policy:

**Department of Health Privacy Policy**  
**Hospital and Health Services website**

## Where can I get more information?

- Call **13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)**
- Contact your doctor
- Visit Queensland Health's Immunisation website: [www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/adolescents](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/adolescents)
- Visit the Australian Immunisation website: [www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation](http://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation)

# HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS (HPV)

**NB: vaccine given as one dose**

<b>About</b>	<p>HPV is a very common virus that affects both females and males. There are more than 100 types of HPV. Certain types of HPV cause common warts on the hands and feet and other types cause genital warts and cancers.</p> <p>There are about 40 types of HPV that affect the genital area. Up to 80% of males and females who have had any kind of sexual activity involving genital contact will be infected with at least one type of genital HPV at some time.</p> <p>The HPV vaccine offers protection against the HPV strains that cause most cancers. It is most effective when given in early adolescence well before a person becomes sexually active and possibly exposed to HPV.</p>
<b>How is it spread?</b>	<p>HPV can live both inside and outside the genital area and sometimes the mouth or throat. It is spread through direct skin to skin contact with a person who has HPV and can occur without any symptoms or visible signs. There is currently no treatment for HPV. In most people, the virus is cleared naturally in one to two years. In rare cases, HPV may persist and cause cell changes that lead to cancer.</p>
<b>Symptoms</b>	<p>Most genital HPV infections do not cause any symptoms and people usually do not know they have the infection. Some types of HPV can cause visible genital warts and other types of HPV can be detected in females by a Cervical Screening Test.</p>
<b>Complications</b>	<p>HPV can cause genital warts, cervical, vulval, vaginal, penile and anal cancers, and is also associated with some cancers of the mouth and throat.</p>
<b>Vaccination can prevent disease</b>	<p>Since the National HPV Vaccination Program began in 2007, there has been a 90% reduction in genital warts in young people as well as a decrease in high grade cervical abnormalities.</p> <p>The HPV vaccine provided in the school program is called <i>Gardasil</i><sup>®9</sup>. It protects against nine types of HPV – seven that can cause cancer and two that cause warts. The vaccine works by causing the body to make antibodies that fight HPV. If an immunised person comes into contact with HPV, the antibodies in their blood will fight the virus and protect them against being infected. It usually takes several weeks after vaccination to develop protection against HPV.</p> <p>The vaccine cannot cause HPV infection or cancer. Immunising your child on time against HPV helps protect them from a range of cancers.</p>
<b>Immunocompromised individuals</b>	<p><b>Immunocompromised children (with major medical conditions listed below) require three doses of <i>Gardasil</i><sup>®9</sup> given at 0, 2 and 6 months to attain adequate protection and may not be able to be vaccinated in the School Immunisation Program. Please consult your doctor to discuss HPV vaccination for your child.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary or secondary immunodeficiencies (B lymphocyte antibody and T lymphocyte complete or partial deficiencies); HIV infection; malignancy; organ transplantation; autoimmune disease; or significant immunosuppressive therapy (excluding asplenia or hyposplenia).</li></ul>
<b>Is the vaccine safe?</b>	<p>Yes. Worldwide, extensive clinical trial and post marketing safety surveillance data indicate that HPV vaccines are well tolerated and safe. HPV vaccines have been offered since 2007 and are considered to be extremely safe. Talk to your doctor or <b>13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)</b> if you have any concerns.</p>
<b>What does it contain?</b>	<p>The HPV vaccine contains virus-like particles. It also contains additives in very small amounts to either assist the vaccine to work or act as a preservative.</p>
<b>Are there any side effects?</b>	<p>Like all medications, vaccines may have side effects but compared to the risk of disease, most side effects are minor, last a short time and do not lead to any long-term problems.</p> <p><b>Common side effects that may occur include</b> pain, redness and swelling at the injection site; low grade fever; feeling unwell; headache; and fainting.</p> <p>Serious side effects such as severe allergic reaction are extremely rare.</p>
<b>Where can I get more information about HPV vaccine?</b>	<p>Visit the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance: HPV information and fact sheet at: <a href="http://www.ncirs.org.au/public/ncirs-position-statement-hpv-vaccination">www.ncirs.org.au/public/ncirs-position-statement-hpv-vaccination</a></p> <p>or go to the Queensland Health website <a href="https://www.qld.gov.au/health/condition/infections-and-parasites/viral-infections/human-papillomavirus-hpv">https://www.qld.gov.au/health/condition/infections-and-parasites/viral-infections/human-papillomavirus-hpv</a></p>

# DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, AND PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH)

**NB: vaccine given as one combined dose**

	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Pertussis (whooping cough)
<b>About</b>	Diphtheria is caused by bacteria that can infect the mouth, throat and nose, and skin wounds.	Tetanus is a serious illness caused when wounds are infected by bacteria present in soil.	Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly contagious respiratory disease. It can affect people of any age. In adolescents and adults, the infection may only cause a persistent cough. However, for babies and young children, whooping cough can be life-threatening.
<b>How is it spread?</b>	When an infected person coughs or sneezes or by contact with skin sores or objects contaminated by an infected person.	Through a cut or wound which becomes contaminated by the bacteria.	When an infected person coughs or sneezes.
<b>Symptoms</b>	Extremely sore throat and breathing difficulties and can lead to nerve paralysis and heart failure.	Tetanus causes painful muscle spasms, convulsions and lockjaw.	May include runny nose, sore watery red eyes and fever. It then progresses to a severe cough that may last for months where the person may gasp for air causing a “whooping” sound and may have severe coughing spasms followed by gagging and vomiting.
<b>Complications</b>	About one in 15 people infected with diphtheria will die.	About 3% of people who develop tetanus in Australia will die.	Complications of whooping cough in babies include pneumonia, seizures and brain damage from prolonged lack of oxygen. About 1 in 120 babies aged less than 6 months will die from complications of whooping cough.
<b>Vaccination can prevent disease</b>	The safest and most effective way to prevent these diseases is through vaccination. A full course of vaccination provides long lasting protection against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. Your child may have received vaccination against diphtheria; tetanus; and pertussis (whooping cough) as a preschooler. The vaccine offered to adolescents is a booster dose to maintain effective immunity. Fully vaccinated students will not require another booster for diphtheria and tetanus until they reach 50 years of age, unless an injury places them at risk of tetanus. There is no herd immunity for tetanus.		
<b>How many doses?</b>	One dose of a combined diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (dTpa) vaccine is offered.		
<b>Is the vaccine safe?</b>	This vaccine is safe for adolescents and adults. The incidence of fever is low and there may be some soreness around the injection site. The benefits of protection against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis gained from this vaccination are likely to outweigh the risk of an adverse event.		
<b>What does it contain?</b>	The vaccine contains diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis toxoids. The vaccine also contains additives in very small amounts to either assist the vaccine to work or to act as a preservative. Please note on the consent form if your child is allergic to latex as latex may be present in the vaccine cap.		
<b>Are there any side effects?</b>	Like all medications, vaccines may have side effects but compared to the risk of disease, most side effects are minor, last a short time and do not lead to any long-term problems. <b>Common side effects that may occur include</b> redness and soreness at the injection site; fever; nausea; headache; tiredness and/or aching muscles. Serious side effects such as severe allergic reaction are extremely rare.		

