Queensland Health
Immunisation Program

Year 8 vaccinations: What parents need to know
Queensland Health School Based Vaccination Program

Vaccinations are offered free to every Year 8 student in Queensland as part of the Queensland Health School Based Vaccination Program. The vaccines offered are recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council, and offer young people protection against the following diseases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chickenpox (Varicella)</td>
<td>Only required if not already vaccinated or have not had chickenpox</td>
<td>Although chickenpox is often a mild illness for children, it is more severe for adults. Life-threatening complications such as pneumonia or inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) are possible. If a pregnant woman has chickenpox, there is also a small chance of damage to the unborn baby.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• If under 14 years of age, one dose</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• If 14 years or over, two doses (at least four weeks apart)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>Two doses (four to six months apart)</td>
<td>Hepatitis B is one of the most serious types of hepatitis, and can cause acute or chronic liver disease. Hepatitis B is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections in the world. Some people can develop hepatitis B disease and not be aware. Babies born to infected mothers are at high risk of being infected at birth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Papillomavirus (HPV)</td>
<td>For girls only</td>
<td>HPV is the name for a group of viruses that cause skin warts, genital warts and some cancers. Infection of the cervix with particular types of HPV can cause cervical cell changes that may lead to cervical cancer.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Three doses (over a six month period)</td>
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What you should do
Before your child is offered vaccination, you will receive consent forms for each vaccine they are eligible for, containing comprehensive information about the disease, vaccination, any possible side effects and post-vaccination care. Consent of a parent/legal guardian is needed before any student can be vaccinated. If you have not received the form, ask the school for a copy, or you can download a copy from www.health.qld.gov.au/immunisation.

Make sure you and your child read and understand all the information on the consent form, then sign and return the form by the due date indicating whether you wish your child to be vaccinated at school or not.

After their vaccination, students will receive a record to take home. It is important you keep this record so you know what vaccines your child has received.

To find out vaccination dates for your school, ask school staff, visit the school website and/or look out for notification in the school newsletter.

For more information
To find out more about Queensland Health’s School Based Vaccination Program:
- Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
- Talk to your GP
Frequently asked questions

What is valid consent?
For consent to be valid, the consent must:
- be given freely
- be for the specific procedure (vaccination) to be performed
- be given by a person with capacity to give consent.

The person giving consent must have sufficient information about vaccination, including the benefits and risks, to enable them to make an informed decision.

What if I wish to withdraw consent for my child to be vaccinated at school?
You may withdraw consent at any stage by contacting the service provider in writing.

Who will vaccinate my child?
A team of health professionals will visit your child’s school to offer this free vaccination. The vaccination team may be from Queensland Health, your local council or another health provider contracted by Queensland Health. The vaccines may be given at the same time or separately, depending on when the service provider visits your child’s school. You should be advised by your school of the dates the vaccination team will be visiting.

Will my child’s details be kept private?
At all times, your child’s personal details will be subject to strict confidentiality and privacy laws. Queensland Health is committed to safeguarding the privacy of client information in accordance with the National Privacy Principles set out in Information Standard 42A: Information Privacy for the Queensland Department of Health.

As part of the School Based Vaccination Program, the immunisation provider will record vaccination details and they will be entered onto Queensland Health’s vaccination database. If you wish to access these records, please write to the school program service provider stating your child’s name, date of birth, school where vaccination took place, date or estimated date of vaccination and class number.

Will my child be supervised after receiving their vaccination?
After your child has received their vaccination they will wait in an area close to the vaccination team and be supervised for at least 15 minutes.

Are there more side effects from giving more than one vaccine at the same time?
No. Parents can be reassured that having more than one vaccine at the same time is unlikely to increase the risk of side effects when they are given at the same visit, and that giving a number of vaccines at the same visit does not “overload” the immune system.

What if my child will be away on vaccination day or I want my child to be vaccinated by my doctor?
If your child misses their Year 8 vaccination at school, they can attend a catch-up session if offered by the same service provider in the same calendar year (ask your immunisation provider for details).

You can take them to your doctor before the end of the following year for a free vaccination. (While the vaccine is provided for free, your doctor may charge a consultation fee.)

You are strongly encouraged to have your child vaccinated in the same calendar year the vaccine is offered in the school program.

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Queensland Government