



Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination for Year 10 students

Important Information 2025

Online consent is available for school vaccinations

Parents and guardians can provide consent online for their child's routine school vaccinations for when they are in Year 10.

You will need:

1. Your Service NSW log-in details
2. You and your child's Medicare card number (if you both have one)
3. Details of which secondary school your child attends in 2025.

For more information regarding the NSW School Vaccination Program visit health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination

To provide online consent visit <https://engage.health.nsw.gov.au/engage>

More information:



Translations in 27 languages

Visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/schooltranslations

(Arabic) العربية

لقراءة هذه المعلومات الهامة ببلغتك، تفتقد الموقع الإلكتروني المبيّن أعلاه.

বাংলা (Bangla)

এই গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পড়তে, উপরের ওয়েবসাইটটি দেখুন।

မြန်မာ (Burmese)

ဤအရေးကြီးသော သိကောင်းစရာအချက်အလက်များကို သင့်ဘာသာစကားဖြင့် ဖတ်ရှုရန်အတွက်၊ အထက်ပါ ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်၌ ကြည့်ပါ။

中文 (Chinese)

如欲閱讀這份重要資料的中文本，請瀏覽以上網頁。

(Dari) دری

برای خواندن این معلومات مهم به زبان خود تان، به وب سایت فوق مراجعه کنید.

Thuɔŋjäŋ (Dinka)

Të bīn lēk thekiic kǎn kueen në thon du, kënyë/lbr ë webthiat tō nhial.

(Farsi) فارسی

برای خواندن این اطلاعات مهم به زبان خودتان، به وب سایت بالا مراجعه کنید.

Français (French)

Pour lire ces informations importantes dans votre langue, visitez le site Web ci-dessus.

हिंदी (Hindi)

इस महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी को अपनी भाषा में पढ़ने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर जाएँ।

Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian)

Untuk membaca informasi penting ini dalam bahasa Anda, silakan kunjungi situs web (website) di atas.

日本語 (Japanese)

この重要な情報を日本語でお読みになりたい方は、上記ウェブサイトをご覧ください。

ကညီကျိၣ် (Karen)

လၢနကဖးတၢ်ဂ့ၢ်တၢ်ကျိၣ်အကၢ်ဒိၣ်တမံၤအံၤလၢနကၢ်ဒိၣ်အကၢ်. လဲၤဆူၣ်ယဲၤလၢနအိၣ်လၢထးန့ၣ်တက့ၢ်.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ដើម្បីអានព័ត៌មានដ៏សំខាន់នេះជាភាសារបស់អ្នក សូមបើកចូលរូបសាយខាងលើនេះ។

한국어 (Korean)

본 주요 정보를 한국어로 보시려면, 위의 웹사이트를 방문하시기 바랍니다.

ລາວ (Lao)

ເພື່ອອ່ານຂໍ້ມູນອັນສຳຄັນນີ້ ເປັນພາສາຂອງທ່ານ ຈົ່ງເຂົ້າເບິ່ງເວັບໄຊຕ໌ທີ່ຢູ່ຂ້າງເທິງ.

नेपाली (Nepali)

यो महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी तपाईंको आफ्नै भाषामा पढ्नको लागि, माथि उल्लेखित वेबसाइट हेर्नुहोस्।

Português (Portuguese)

Para ler esta informação importante na sua língua, visite o sítio web mostrado no topo da página.

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)

ਇਸ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਲਈ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵੈਬਸਾਈਟ ਤੇ ਜਾਓ।

Русский язык (Russian)

Прочитать эту важную информацию на своем родном языке вы можете, посетив указанный выше сайт.

Fa'a-Samoa (Samoan)

Mo le faitauina o nei faamatalaga taua tele i lau lava gagana, asiasi i le upega tafa'ilagi (website) pei ona ta'ua i luga.

Español (Spanish)

Para leer esta importante información en español, recurra a la página web indicada arriba.

தமிழ் (Tamil)

இம் முக்கிய தகவலை உங்கள் மொழியில் வாசிக்க மேலுள்ள வலைத்தளத்திற்குச் செல்க.

ไทย (Thai)

อ่านข้อมูลสำคัญนี้เป็นภาษาไทย ไปที่เว็บไซต์ที่อยู่ด้านบนนี้

Lea Faka-Tonga (Tongan)

Ke lau 'a e fakamatala mahu'ingā ni 'i ho'olea tu'ufonuā, 'a'ahi ki he uepisaiti 'i 'olungā.

Türkçe (Turkish)

Bu önemli bilgiyi kendi dilinizde okumak için yukarıdaki internet sitesine giriniz.

Українська мова (Ukrainian)

Щоб ознайомитися з цією важливою інформацією рідною мовою, відвідайте вищевказаний сайт.

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

Muốn đọc thông tin quan trọng này bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị hãy thăm trang website ghi trên.

Meningococcal ACWY vaccination

Parent Information Sheet

NSW Health offers the vaccines recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council in a school vaccination program. Signed parental/guardian consent must be provided.

Your next steps:

- Carefully read this information sheet.
- If you would like your child to be vaccinated against meningococcal ACWY please provide your consent online or request a paper based consent form from your school.
- If you do not wish your child to be vaccinated against meningococcal ACWY, do not provide consent.

Q. How do I provide consent for school vaccination?

To provide online consent you will need:

1. Your Service NSW log-in details
 2. You and your child's Medicare card number (if you both have one)
- If you or your child do not have a Medicare card, consent can still be provided by requesting a paper-based consent form (available on request from schools).

Q. Can I withdraw consent?

Parents can withdraw consent at any time before vaccination takes place.

Where consent has been given online, please log-in to the secure NSW Health online consent portal and follow the prompts to withdraw consent.

Where consent has been given on the physical consent form, please write to or call the school to advise the student's name, school grade and those vaccines the withdrawn consent applies to.

Q. What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious infection that usually leads to meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and/or septicaemia (blood poisoning).

Symptoms of meningococcal disease may be non-specific but may include sudden onset of fever, headache, neck stiffness, joint pain, a rash of red-purple spots or bruises, dislike of bright lights, nausea and vomiting.

Up to 10 per cent of meningococcal infections are fatal even with appropriate antibiotic treatment, and survivors may be left with long-term complications.

Q. How is meningococcal disease spread?

Meningococcal bacteria are passed between people in the saliva from the back of the nose and throat. This generally requires close and prolonged contact with a person carrying the bacteria who is usually completely well. An example of 'close and prolonged contact' is living in the same household or intimate (deep) kissing. Meningococcal bacteria are not easily spread from person to person and the bacteria do not survive well outside the human body.

Q. How do vaccines work?

Vaccines work by triggering the immune system to fight certain infections. If a vaccinated person comes into contact with these infections, their immune system is able to respond more effectively, preventing the disease developing or greatly reducing its severity.

Q. How effective is the meningococcal ACWY vaccine?

A single dose of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine is very effective in providing protection against these four types of meningococcal disease. The vaccine does not protect against meningococcal disease caused by type B.

Q. Who should be vaccinated in this program?

All students in Year 10 in secondary schools, and those aged 15-19 years attending Intensive English Centres, should be vaccinated to be protected against meningococcal serogroups A, C, W and Y.

Q. Who should not be vaccinated?

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine should not be given to people who:

- are or may be pregnant
- have had anaphylaxis following a previous dose of meningococcal vaccine
- have had anaphylaxis following any of the vaccine additives

People with a known hypersensitivity to tetanus toxoid should also not be vaccinated with meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

Q. What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that may result in unconsciousness and death if not treated quickly.

It occurs very rarely after any vaccination. The school immunisation nurses are fully trained in the treatment of anaphylaxis.

Q. Hasn't my child already received the meningococcal ACWY vaccine? Is it safe to receive meningococcal ACWY vaccine?

The Meningococcal ACWY vaccine has been included on the National Immunisation Program for children aged 12 months of age since July 2018. Your child may have previously received a meningococcal C vaccine which only protects against meningococcal C disease.

The Meningococcal ACWY vaccine will provide a booster dose against meningococcal C disease as well as protect against types A, W and Y.

A small number of students with certain medical conditions (such as no spleen or immune deficiency) may have previously been given this vaccine. If so, please discuss with your GP or specialist if your child is due for a booster.

Q. What are the other indications for this vaccine?

This vaccine is also recommended for people planning travel involving a greater risk of exposure to meningococcal disease, including the Hajj. The vaccine is also recommended for certain occupations, such as microbiology laboratory staff, and for people with certain medical conditions, such as not having a spleen.

Q. What additives does the meningococcal ACWY vaccine contain?

The vaccine may contain sodium chloride, sodium acetate and water for injections. Additives are included in very small amounts to either assist the vaccine to work or to act as a preservative.

Q. How safe are vaccines?

Vaccines used in Australia are safe and must pass strict safety testing before being approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). In addition, the TGA monitors the safety of vaccines once they are in use.

Q. What are the side effects of meningococcal ACWY vaccination?

Side effects are commonly mild and usually involve fever, headache, dizziness or pain, swelling and redness at the injection site. Injection site reactions generally resolve within 2-3 days. Serious side effects are extremely rare.

More information about side effects is available in the Consumer Medicines Information (CMI) for the vaccine available from health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school-vaccination-parents.aspx#what.

Parents concerned about side effects after vaccination should contact their GP who should also make a report to the local public health unit.

Q. Should the vaccine be given to a female student who is or thinks she may be pregnant?

No. Any female student who is, or thinks she may be, pregnant should not be vaccinated. On the day of the clinic the vaccination nurse will ask female students if they are or could be pregnant. If a student answers yes to this question, she will not be vaccinated. The student will be urged to immediately discuss the issue with her parent/guardian and to seek medical help. She will also be provided with contact details for a health referral service that will provide advice, support and guidance.

Q. What if my child has asthma and takes cortisone or prednisone by a "puffer"?

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine can be safely administered to someone who has asthma regardless of which medications they are taking.

Q. What do I do if my child missed out on the vaccine because of illness or absence on the day of the nurses' visit?

Every effort will be made to vaccinate your child at subsequent school clinics during the Year 10 school year. Where this is possible, you will be advised of arrangements for catch-up vaccination. Alternatively, free catch-up vaccine is available through your local GP and pharmacy. Please note your GP may charge a consultation fee.

Q. How can I access a record of the vaccinations?

Information about your child's vaccinations will be uploaded to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) so it can be linked to your child's existing immunisation history.

Parents can request a copy of their child's AIR Immunisation History Statement at any time up to their child being 14 years of age, and students aged 14 years and over can request their own immunisation history statement, as follows:

- using the Medicare online account through myGov my.gov.au/
- using the Medicare Express Plus App servicesaustralia.gov.au/express-plus-mobile-apps
- calling the AIR General Enquiries Line on 1800 653 809.

Q. What will happen to my child's information?

The information you provide on the Consent Form is subject to strict confidentiality and privacy protections contained in NSW and Commonwealth legislation (see the enclosed Privacy Statement). The information will be entered into a NSW Health immunisation register and then uploaded to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) so it can be linked to your child's existing immunisation history and viewed on MyGov.

Q. Where can I find more information about school vaccination?

More information is available:

- by visiting the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination
- by contacting your local public health unit on 1300 066 055

Privacy statement

Our obligations

We are committed to treating your personal information in accordance with privacy law.

This statement explains how and why we collect personal information about you and your child, how you can access your information and how your information may be used within the NSW public health service or disclosed to other parties. Your personal information includes personal details about you and your child and personal health information relating to your child's immunisation.

Collection

Personal information is collected so that your child can be provided with the appropriate immunisation services.

Only information that is relevant and necessary for your child's immunisation and to manage immunisation services is collected.

Information is collected directly from you and your child, wherever possible. Information may need to be collected from your child's school and other health professionals who have treated your child. In an emergency, information may also need to be collected from another family member, friend, carer or other person who can help us to provide your child with the best care.

Security of information collected

Personal information may be held in a variety of ways. Most commonly, information may be held as a paper medical record, and/or an electronic medical record forming part of a secure computerised database. We follow strict rules and policies regarding the secure storage of personal information in all formats in order to protect your information from loss, unauthorised access and misuse.

Use and disclosure

Your personal information or that of your child may be used by the NSW public health service, or disclosed outside the health service, to enable appropriate care and treatment to be provided to you. For example, your information may be used or disclosed to your GP, to your child's GP, to another treating health service or hospital, to the Ambulance Service of NSW, to a specialist for a referral, or for pathology tests. Personal information may also be used or disclosed for purposes relating to the operation of the NSW health service and the treatment of our patients, including funding, planning, safety, and quality improvement activities.

Personal information must be disclosed to State and Commonwealth government agencies to comply with laws regarding the reporting of notifiable diseases, to provide Medicare details and immunisation statistics. HPV vaccination data will be uploaded to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and linked to your child's existing immunisation history, and included on future AIR Immunisation History Statements. Data relating to female students will also be disclosed to the National Cervical Screening Program Register in the future. We may also use your personal information to contact you regarding client satisfaction surveys and to monitor vaccine safety. Participation is voluntary and non-participation does not affect the health care provided.

Access to your information

You are entitled to request access to your personal information held by us, and to that of your child. You may be charged a fee if you request copies of your personal information or medical record.

Further Information and contact us

For further information on how your personal information is managed, please see the NSW Health Privacy Manual for Health Information: health.nsw.gov.au/patients/privacy

If you have questions or a complaint about the privacy of your personal information, please contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

NSW School Vaccination Program Parent Information

May 2023 © NSW Health. SHPN (HPNSW) 220725-1.

