

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian of Year 7 student,

In 2024, your child/adolescent will be eligible for Gardasil and Boostrix vaccines, recommended on the National Immunisation Program. This is a funded program for all Year 7 students.

Eastern Health Authority provide Immunisation Services throughout Adelaide's East and Inner-North and is the Immunisation Provider for your child/adolescent's school.

Please see attached, the current information provided by SA Health relating to the relevant vaccines.

It is hoped this will give, you, the parent/legal guardian time to read through the letters/information sheets and access further information in the relevant links to prepare you for the arrival of the hard copies in the first few weeks of school.

Please be advised that it is a requirement the consent be signed by a parent or legal guardian (by court of law). In circumstances where an international student lives with a Home Stay parent, the consent form will need to be emailed to the actual Parent/Legal Guardian for consent and signing for a valid consent. This will also apply to any Boarding Student whose parent/legal guardian has not been able to physically sign the form.

Eastern Health Authority has been a provider of School Immunisations for over 25 years and have extremely qualified Registered Nurses who attend the School Program.

We work collaboratively with parents, teachers, and students to achieve positive outcomes within the School Program and more broadly with our public clinics.

Once you have read through the information, if you require further information or have any questions or queries, please contact Eastern Health Authority on 81323600 or email eha@eha.sa.gov.au

Kind Regards

Rebecca Haysman

Senior Registered Nurse

Immunisation

2024 Year 7 School Immunisation Program

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian

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 to offer these vaccinations. Your child will receive two injections at the school visit: one combined vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and one human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

Included with this letter is the **Year 7 Consent Card**. **Please read all the information on both sides of this page before completing the consent card and discuss these vaccines with your child.**

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

Your child may have already received some of the vaccines offered in the School Immunisation Program if they have 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 by contacting your **School Immunisation Program provider**. **It is very 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 provided on the Consent Card needs to be updated.**

Students will receive a vaccination record to take home. This contains important information regarding possible side effects after vaccination.

If you have provided consent and 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.

All immunisations administered to children and adolescents are recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register. Parents/legal guardians of students aged less than 14 years can access an immunisation history statement either from their **Medicare online account** through **myGov** or by using 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 to the Australian Government Department of Human Services for their parents/legal guardians to access their history statement.

Further information about immunisation is available at:

- Parent and student high school vaccination videos: health.gov.au/resources/collections/vaccination-videos-for-high-school-students
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HPV vaccination video: health.gov.au/resources/videos/the-hpv-vaccine-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-children
- SA Health – School Immunisation Program: sahealth.sa.gov.au/school-immunisations
- Australian Government Department of Health: health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation
- National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance: ncirs.edu.au
- Cancer Council HPV Vaccine: www.hpvvaccine.org.au

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

Immunisation Section
Communicable Disease Control Branch
sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation

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Year 7 Parent/Legal Guardian Information

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

- very common virus that affects females and males
- spread by intimate or sexual contact
- it is estimated 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 if they 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:

- 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 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 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 cervical screening for women as the vaccine protects against most, but not all types of HPV that cause cervical cancer.

Further information is available from health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/vaccines and hpvvaccine.org.au or your doctor

Common side effects of Gardasil®9 vaccine

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

Diphtheria

- Diphtheria is a 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 7 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 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 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 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®/Adacel®)

- is recommended as a single dose for all Year 7 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 as it will offer protection against whooping cough

Further information is available from health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/vaccines or your doctor.

Common side effects of Boostrix®/Adacel® vaccines

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

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/immunisation

