

Latest on the

School Based Vaccination Program

What is the school vaccination program?

The School Based Vaccination Program is a free program offered to secondary school students. With the school vaccination program you can get your immunisations without having to go to your doctor.

Why immunise?

Immunisation is a simple way of protecting yourself and others against diseases. Even though you may have been vaccinated as a child, immunity to some diseases decreases over time, necessitating extra immunisations as an adolescent. Also some new vaccines have been developed (such as hepatitis B and human papillomavirus) which were not available when you received immunisations as an infant.

What immunisations are available?

In 2010, the following immunisations will be offered at your school:

- Year 8 – hepatitis B and chickenpox
- Year 8 (girls only) – human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Year 10 – whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus (given as one injection).

How does the program work?

Your school will advise you when the immunisation clinic will be held and will give you a consent form. (Some schools post the consent form directly to your home).

Make sure the consent form/s (there is one consent form for each immunisation) is/are signed by your parent/guardian and returned to school when required. You should also read the consent form because it provides information about the diseases, benefits of immunisation and any common side effects of the vaccine.

On the day of the clinic, you will be given your immunisation by a fully qualified nurse and monitored for 15 minutes afterwards. Sometimes you may experience minor soreness, redness, itching, swelling or burning at the injection site. These symptoms are common and usually resolve quickly.

If you miss an immunisation clinic at your school, you may be able to attend a catch-up session if it is offered or you can visit your doctor.

Where can I get more information?

Check out our website at www.health.qld.gov.au/school_vaccination for more information about the School Based Vaccination Program.