



June 2023

## NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS 2023 - YEAR 10 STUDENTS – VICTORIAN SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM

In 2023, the Victorian Secondary School Vaccine Program will offer free Meningococcal ACWY vaccine to students in Years 10. The vaccine provides protection against four strains of meningococcal disease (ACWY) and is administered as a single dose.

Information on the Meningococcal disease and the vaccine may be found in the detachable section of the consent card. **Please read all information before making your decision and signing the consent card.**

### THE CONSENT CARD MUST BE COMPLETED AS FOLLOWS:

**ALL relevant sections of the consent card must be completed, signed and returned to the school even if your child is NOT being vaccinated.**

To consent to your adolescent being vaccinated, please tick and sign the relevant **YES** section of the consent card in **black or blue pen**. If you **DO NOT** wish to have your adolescent vaccinated, please tick the relevant **NO** section of the consent card. All consent cards must be returned to the school by the due date.

### WITHDRAWAL OF CONSENT

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for vaccination may do so by emailing or phoning the school, and Council's Immunisation Team on [immunise@wodonga.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunise@wodonga.vic.gov.au) before the vaccination day.

### DATES:

Consent Card Return Date: **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Vaccination Date: **Monday 17 July 2023**

If you have any enquiries about the program, or your child's immunisation, please contact council's immunisation team on 1800 655 360.

Yours faithfully



Bernadette Kosmina  
**Team Leader Immunisation Services**



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Who can give consent?**

Consent for school based vaccination needs to be given by a parent or legal guardian of the student being vaccinated.

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

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

## **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?**

Wodonga council's immunisation team will visit your child's school to offer this free vaccination. Council uses accredited nurse immunisers to administer the vaccinations.

## **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 immunisation 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.

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

The information you provide on the consent card will be kept confidential, however will be recorded on the AIR (Australian Immunisation Register). You can access your child's immunisation record by contacting council on 1800 655 360 or the AIR on 1800 653 809.

## **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 vaccination at school, they can attend any Council immunisation session for catch-up vaccination, free of charge in the same calendar year. Contact council on 1800 655 360 for session dates or visit [www.wodonga.vic.gov.au](http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au).

Alternatively, you can take your child to your general practitioner before the end of the year for a free vaccination. (While the vaccine is provided for free, your GP may charge a consultation fee.) You are then requested to phone and advise council of the date and vaccine your child received.

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

## **Where can I go for more information?**

- Your local council immunisation service: [www.wodonga.vic.gov.au](http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au) or 1800 655 360
- Your GP
- [www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation)

## **Why are immunisations needed?**

Adolescence is an important age to have a booster dose of vaccine. The protection from some immunisations given to children fades over time so needs to be boosted. The government also funds some vaccine programs especially for adolescents because adolescents are at an age when the vaccine will be effective and provide protection before there is the chance of them being exposed to disease in later adolescence and adulthood.

Immunisation is a proven and safe way to be protected against diseases which cause serious illness and sometimes death. Immunisation not only protects the person having the vaccine, but can protect other people around them who cannot be immunised due to illness or age (for example pertussis, also known as whooping cough, can be deadly for babies, however babies under six months of age are too young to be fully vaccinated).

# How to complete your child's immunisation consent card

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Parent/guardian to read all information before making a decision



Complete student details section



Complete parent/guardian contact details section



Complete either of the following sections:  
A. If you would like your child/adolescent to receive a particular vaccine tick and sign the relevant yes section of the consent card  
OR  
B. If you do not wish for your child/adolescent to receive a particular vaccine tick/complete the relevant no section of the consent card



Note any pre-existing medical conditions, severe allergies or previous severe reaction to a vaccine in relevant section



Return the consent card to the school by the due date

## On Immunisation Day

- ✓ Encourage your child to eat breakfast and eat throughout the day
- ✓ Encourage your child to wear loose clothing and not too many layers so that the upper arm below the shoulder is easily accessible
- ✓ Explain to your child the importance of immunisations.