

|  |
| --- |
| Meningococcal ACWY secondary school vaccine program consent card Complete, sign and return the consent form to your school |

# How to complete the form

* Read the information provided.
* Complete the consent section for the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine, and sign or type your name.
* Return the consent sections to the school even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated.

# What is the National Immunisation Program?

The [National Immunisation Program schedule](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule) <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule> sets out free vaccinations for children, school programs, adults, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other people at risk. As part of the program, free vaccines are recommended for adolescents aged 14 to 16 years or in Year 10 of secondary school. The following people who are eligible for National Immunisation Program vaccines can catch up on a range of free vaccines missed in childhood:

* all people under 20 years of age
* people aged 25 years and under who have missed human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination
* refugees and humanitarian entrants of any age.

**Consent for immunisation**

Consent for each vaccine must be provided by parents, guardians or other medical treatment decision makers for students to receive free vaccinations at school.

Consent can be completed using a consent card or online (some schools) for the routine school vaccinations.

# Meningococcal ACWY information

## Meningococcal ACWY

[**Meningococcal disease**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/meningococcal-disease) occurs when meningococcal bacteria, commonly found in the nose or throat, invades the body and causes serious disease. Older teenagers and young adults are most likely to carry the bacteria and spread it to others.

Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) is a rare but serious disease. It most commonly presents as septicaemia (infection in the blood, also known as ‘bacteraemia’) or meningitis, (inflammation of the membrane covering of the brain). Occasionally, severe infection can also occur in the joints, throat, lungs or intestines.

Although the majority of people will recover if the infection is diagnosed early, the disease can cause complications that may result in permanent disabilities through loss of limbs, deafness, blindness, scarring, kidney or liver failure. Death can occur in up to 10 per cent of cases.

Globally, meningococcal serogroups A, B, C, W and Y most commonly cause disease. Vaccination is the key prevention against meningococcal disease.

## Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

The Meningococcal ACWY vaccine, Nimenrix®, is a four-in-one combined vaccine for protection against meningococcal A, C, W, Y strains.

Studies have shown that this vaccine can provide up to 97 per cent immunity in adolescents.

## How safe is the vaccine?

Meningococcal ACWY vaccines have been shown to be safe in multiple large population studies (conducted in countries after the vaccines became available) in people of different ages, from infants to adults. Most reactions after vaccination are mild and resolve on their own. The vaccine does not contain any live bacteria and cannot cause meningococcal disease.

## How is the vaccine given?

The Meningococcal ACWY vaccination is a single injection administered into the upper arm.

## What are the possible side effects of immunisation?

There are possible mild reactions that follow immunisation and a very small risk of a [serious allergic reaction](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/anaphylaxis) to any vaccine. It is important students stay at the school or clinic where the immunisation was given for at least 15 minutes after being immunised to monitor for symptoms of a reaction. If you have any concern about any reaction to the vaccine/s your child received, **contact your local council,**[**pharmacist**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/serviceprofiles/Pharmacist)**,**[**GP**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/serviceprofiles/general-practitioner-services)**or hospital**.

#### Common mild side effects

* Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
* A temporary small lump at the injection site
* Low grade fever
* Feeling unwell
* Headache

If mild reactions do occur, the side effects can be reduced by:

* drinking extra fluids and not over-dressing if the person has a fever
* taking paracetamol
* placing a cold, wet cloth on the sore injection site.

If a student is known to [**faint**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/fainting) or be very [**anxious**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/conditionsandtreatments/anxiety), it may be better for them to be vaccinated with a GP rather than at school.

**Uncommon mild side effects**

* Rash or hives

If the student has a history of hives after a vaccine it is important that they tell their immunisation provider before vaccination.

#### Rare side effects

* A severe allergic reaction, for example facial swelling, difficulty breathing.

In the rare event of a severe allergic reaction, immediate medical attention will be provided. If reactions are severe or persistent, or if you are worried, contact your doctor or hospital.

If a child is known to [**faint**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/fainting) or be very [**anxious**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/conditionsandtreatments/anxiety), it may be better for them to be vaccinated with a GP or local council community session rather than at school.

[**Immunisation side effects**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-side-effects) should be reported to the [**Victorian vaccine safety service (SAFEVAC)**](https://www.safevac.org.au/Home/Info/VIC), the central reporting service in Victoria, on Tel. [**1300 882 924**](tel:1300882924) (select option 1), email [**enquiries@saefvic.org.au**](mailto:enquiries@saefvic.org.au).

#### Preparing adolescents for school-based immunisation

Some useful tips for preparing adolescents for school-based immunisations include:

* giving them a good breakfast
* making sure they wear a loose shirt
* ensure they are feeling well on the day
* making sure they let the teacher or nurse know if they are feeling nervous or unwell.

#### Pre-immunisation checklist

It is important that students tell their immunisation provider if any of the following apply.

* Are unwell on the day of immunisation (temperature over 38.5°C)
* Previously had a severe reaction to any vaccine
* Have any severe [**allergies**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/conditionsandtreatments/allergies) such as an [**anaphylactic**](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/anaphylaxis) reaction to yeast or latex
* Have a disease or are having treatment which causes low immunity.
* Have a known hypersensitivity to diphtheria toxoid
* Are pregnant

#### After vaccination

Students should remain under observation at the place of vaccination for a minimum of 15 minutes to ensure that they do not experience an immediate adverse event, and for immunisation staff to provide rapid medical care if needed.

#### Translated resources

For information regarding the meningococcal ACWY vaccine in other languages, please refer to the [Health translations](https://www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au/resources/adolescent-meningococcal-acwy-vaccine) <https://www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au/resources/adolescent-meningococcal-acwy-vaccine*>*. Alternatively, you can contact local council for other resources.

#### More vaccine-related information

Full information, including interactive videos, of the secondary school immunisation program, can be accessed through the [Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools) <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools>.

# Further information

A copy of your child’s immunisation history statement is available from:

* Medicare online account through myGov <[www.my.gov.au](http://www.my.gov.au)>
* Medicare mobile app <<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicare>>
* Australian Immunisation Register, Tel. 1800 653 809
* National Translating and Interpreting Service, Tel. 131 450

If you require further advice or information, please contact your immunisation provider, or visit the following websites:

[Better Health Channel](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)<http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au>

[Australian Government Department of Health](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation) <http://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation>

# Consent form for: Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

### Student details (as recorded on their Medicare card)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Medicare number (including number beside child’s name) |  |
| Surname |  |
| First name |  |
| Postal address |  |
| Postcode |  |
| Date of birth |  |
| Gender |  |
| School name |  |
| Class |  |

Is this person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? Mark chosen response with an ‘X’.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No |  |
| Aboriginal |  |
| Torres Strait Islander |  |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander |  |

### Parent/guardian contact details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of parent/guardian |  |
| Daytime phone |  |
| Mobile |  |
| Email |  |

# Vaccine consent

**Declaration**: I am authorised to give consent or non-consent for my child to be vaccinated and by giving consent, I understand my child will be given separate vaccines for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough), and human papillomavirus. I have read and I understand the information given to me about vaccination, including the risks of not being vaccinated and the side effects of vaccines. I understand I can discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with my immunisation provider. I understand that consent can be withdrawn at any time before vaccination takes place.

Please mark your chosen response, below, with an ‘X’.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| YES, I CONSENT to my child receiving the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine at school.  The Meningococcal ACWY vaccine is a four-in-one combined vaccine for protection against meningococcal A, C, W, Y strains (one injection). | |  |
| If you have selected 'Yes' above, please sign or type your name. |  | |
| Date you signed this form. |  | |
| No, I do not consent to my child receiving the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine at this time. | |  |
| No, my child has had the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine elsewhere. | |  |
| If your child is being vaccinated, please note any pre-existing medical condition, severe allergies or previous severe reaction to vaccination here: | | |

# Privacy statement

The meningococcal ACWY vaccine program is a Commonwealth government funded vaccine program. Vaccines are administered by an immunisation nurse, employed by local council immunisation services, who visit each Victorian secondary school a number of times a year. Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, local councils are responsible for coordinating and providing immunisation services to children being educated within the municipal district. Local councils are committed to protecting the privacy, confidentiality and security of personal information, in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Health Records Act 2001*.

Local councils report vaccines given through school programs to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Personal identifying details will be kept confidential. These details are for the purpose of providing targeted improved health services for all Victorian children. In addition, the details enable tools such as recall and reminder systems to improve vaccination rates. This is important to improve immunisation rates overall. Individuals will have access to their record of all vaccines recorded in the AIR. Aggregate immunisation data may be disclosed to the Victorian government for the purpose of monitoring, funding and improving the Year 7 Secondary School Immunisation Program. This information does not identify any individual.

Information related to you or your child will be used or disclosed for purposes directly related to your child’s immunisation, and in ways that you would reasonably expect. This may include the transfer or exchange of relevant information to your GP, to your child’s GP, to another treating health service or hospital or another local council. The local council may provide you with information related to the secondary school immunisation program via SMS or email. You can access your child’s immunisation information by contacting the local council where your child attends school.

The vast majority of people complete and return this form. Thank you for returning yours.

# Office use only

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Vaccine** | **Meningococcal ACWY** | | | | |
| **Vaccination date** |  | **Nurse initials** |  | **Site: L/R arm** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| To receive this document in another format, email [Immunisation Unit](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au) <immunisation@health.vic.gov.au>.This publication is copyright, no part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968.*  Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.  © State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Health, January 2024.  Available at [Secondary school immunisation program - Resources for secondary schools and councils](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/information-for-local-councils) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/secondary-school-immunisation-program> |