Year 8 & 10

Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (pertussis) vaccination (dTpa)

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN: to have your child vaccinated, please
☐ Read this information and discuss it with your child
☐ Complete Sections A to E on page 3
☐ Make sure you sign and date “Yes, I give consent” in Section D
☐ Detach and return the completed and signed consent form (page 3) to school

Only students with a completed and signed consent form will be vaccinated. Please ensure your child has had breakfast on the day of vaccination.

As part of Queensland Health’s 2015 School Immunisation Program, every Year 8 and Year 10 student in Queensland is being offered free immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (pertussis). It is likely that your child last received vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough when they were pre-school age. A booster in adolescence is recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council to ensure continued immunity against these serious and life threatening diseases.

Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough are serious diseases
All three diseases are serious and can be life-threatening, and can occur during adolescence and adulthood.

Vaccination can prevent these diseases
The safest and most effective way to prevent these diseases is through vaccination. A full course of vaccination provides long lasting protection against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. Fully vaccinated students will not require another booster for diphtheria and tetanus until they reach 50 years of age, unless an injury places them at risk of tetanus.

What if my child has already received a tetanus or a diphtheria-tetanus vaccine?
Even if your child has been vaccinated against diphtheria and/or tetanus, they should still be vaccinated with dTpa vaccine to provide protection against whooping cough as well. There is no minimum waiting period between previously administered diphtheria and/or tetanus vaccines and dTpa.

What if my child can't be vaccinated at school or misses out because of illness or absence?
If your child can’t be vaccinated at school, they may be able to be vaccinated at a ‘catch up’ clinic offered at your school during 2015 or at your local doctor or immunisation clinic. If your child is vaccinated outside of the school program prior to the end of 2016, the vaccine will be free however, your doctor may charge a consultation fee. When you call for an appointment, advise the receptionist what vaccinations are required so they can order the vaccine.

Diphtheria
• caused by bacteria that infect the mouth, throat and nose
• results in an extremely sore throat and breathing difficulties
• can produce nerve paralysis and heart failure
• about one in 15 people infected with diphtheria will die
• in 2011, an unvaccinated Queensland adult died from diphtheria

Tetanus
• occurs when wounds are infected by bacteria present in soil
• causes painful muscle spasms, convulsions and lockjaw
• about 3% of people who develop tetanus in Australia will die

Pertussis (Whooping cough)
• a highly contagious respiratory disease resulting in a severe cough that may last for months, where the person may gasp for air causing a ‘whooping’ sound and may also have severe coughing spasms followed by gagging or vomiting
• complications can include convulsions, pneumonia, coma, inflammation of the brain, permanent brain damage and long-term lung damage
• epidemics occur in Australia every three to four years
• adolescents and adults are at risk, and can pass the disease onto babies who are too young to be immunised (about one in 120 babies under six months die from complications of whooping cough, pneumonia and brain damage)
Please read the following information

What does dTpa vaccine contain and does it have side effects?
The vaccine contains diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid, and purified antigens of Bordetella pertussis. The vaccine also contains very small amounts of aluminium hydroxide/phosphate, formaldehyde, polysorbate and glycine to either assist the vaccine or to act as a preservative.

Like all medications vaccines may have side effects but these are usually mild and temporary and do not lead to any long term problems. If a reaction is severe or persistent, or if you are worried, contact your doctor or vaccine provider as soon as possible. Possible common side effects may include fever, redness or swelling at the injection site. Serious side effects, such as severe allergic reaction, are extremely rare.

The current vaccine is different from the vaccine offered when your child was of preschool age and adverse reactions are less common.

Will my child’s vaccination details be kept private?
The Information Privacy Act 2009 sets out the rules for collection and handling of personal information contained in the School Immunisation Program consent form.

As part of participation in the School Immunisation Program, Queensland Health collects details such as the student’s name, contact information and relevant health information. We also may need to collect contact details for the parent or legal guardian of the student. This information is needed to correctly deliver vaccinations and to record vaccination details on Queensland Health’s immunisation database (Vaccination Information and Vaccination Administration System). Authorised Queensland Health staff and Vaccine Service Providers registered with Queensland Health may access your information for the purpose of clinical follow up or disease prevention, control and monitoring. Your information will not be accessed by or given to any other person or organisation without your permission unless permitted or required by law.

For information about how Queensland Health protects your personal information, or to learn about your right to access your own personal information, please see our website at www.health.qld.gov.au

IMPORTANT! Consent of a parent/legal guardian is needed before any student can be vaccinated

Only students with a completed and signed consent form will be vaccinated. After both the parent/guardian and student have read this information sheet, please complete and sign the consent form indicating your consent to the vaccination.

You may withdraw consent at any stage by contacting the service provider in writing.

A completed, signed consent form MUST be returned to school

If your child arrives to be vaccinated without a signed consent form, you may be contacted to obtain verbal consent.

Prior to vaccination the nurse will ask your child if they feel unwell and if there are any changes to the information provided in Section A to E on page 3.

What to do after vaccination
1. For soreness, redness, itching, swelling or burning at the injection site, paracetamol (given as directed) might be required to ease discomfort.
2. If fever is present, paracetamol can be given as directed. Paracetamol should not be given for more than 48 hours without seeking medical advice.
3. If you are worried about your child’s condition after vaccination, seek medical advice from your doctor or vaccine provider as soon as possible or go directly to a hospital.

Find out more
• Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
• Visit Queensland Health’s Immunisation website: www.health.qld.gov.au/immunisation
• Visit the Immunise Australia website: www.immunise.health.gov.au
• Contact your doctor

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government initiative
dTPa vaccination consent

Parents/ legal guardian to complete Section A, B, C, D & E

Section A: Student details

School: __________________________  Year: _______  Class: _______
Surname: _________________________
Given names: ____________________
Date of birth: __/__/____  Gender:  □ Male  □ Female

Is your child:  □ Aboriginal  □ Torres Strait Islander (TSI)  □ Aboriginal & TSI  □ Not Aboriginal or TSI  □ Not stated / unknown

Address: _____________________________________________  Postcode: _______

Section B: Pre-vaccination checklist  (Tick any box that applies to your child)

My child:
□ has previously had a reaction to a vaccine
□ faints when given an injection
□ has severe allergies
□ has received a vaccine in the last 4 weeks
□ is pregnant
□ has a disease which lowers immunity (eg leukaemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS)
□ is having treatment which lowers immunity (eg oral steroid medications such as cortisone and prednisone, radiotherapy, chemotherapy
□ has had an injection of immunoglobulin or a whole blood transfusion in the last 7 months

If your child is immunocompromised please consult your doctor about this vaccination.

If you have ticked any box above, please give details:

Section C: Parent / legal guardian details

Surname: _________________________  Given names: _______________________
Relationship to student:  □ Parent  □ Legal guardian  Phone (day time): _______
Mobile: _________________________  Email: ____________________________

Section D: Consent for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination

I have read and I understand the information given to me about the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccination, including risks and side effects. I have been given the opportunity to discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with my doctor or by telephoning 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84). I am authorised as the parent or legal guardian of the above child to give consent for the child to be vaccinated. I understand that consent can be withdrawn at any time before vaccination by making a written request to the school program service provider.

YES, I GIVE CONSENT for my child to receive
1 dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) vaccine.

SIGN HERE: Parent/legal guardian signature __________________________  Date: ____________

Section E: child details  (DO NOT DETACH)

dTPa vaccination record

Parent to complete for child
dTPa Vaccination Record
Surname: _________________________
Given name: _______________________
Date of birth: __/__/____

Immunisation provider to complete
Date of dTPa vaccination: _______
Time of vaccination: _______ am/pm (circle either am or pm)
Site of vaccination:  □ Left Arm  □ Right Arm
Batch Number: _______________________
Vaccinator’s Signature/Stamp: _______________________

Please return completed and signed form to school
What to do after the vaccination

1. For soreness, redness, itching, swelling or burning at the injection site, paracetamol (given as directed) might be required to ease discomfort.

2. If fever is present, paracetamol can be given as directed. Paracetamol should not be given for more than 48 hours without seeking medical advice.

3. If you are worried about your child's condition after vaccination, seek medical advice from your doctor or vaccine provider as soon as possible or go directly to a hospital.