

# Year 10 ACT High School Immunisation Program 2026

## Information

The Child and Adolescent Immunisation Team provide this **free** immunisation program and will be visiting your child's school during **2026**.

All Year 10 students are offered the following vaccine:

- **Meningococcal ACWY**  
(1 dose required)

### To do:

1. **Read** the information. This information card can be detached and retained for your reference.
2. **Sign** the consent card, even if your child is not being vaccinated at school.
3. **Return** the consent card to school **as soon as possible**.
4. **Talk** to your child about vaccination.

Please advise the Child and Adolescent Immunisation Team on **02 5124 1585** if your child changes schools throughout the year or if you wish to change your consent.

### Acknowledgement of Country



Canberra Health Services acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognises any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this region.



### Accessibility

call (02) 5124 0000



### Interpreter

call 131 450

[canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/accessibility](https://canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/accessibility)





## Important

**Does my child still need this vaccine if they already received the Meningococcal C vaccine in early childhood?**

Yes. The meningococcal ACWY vaccine will safely boost protection against the C strain, as well as providing protection against the A, W and Y strains.

## Meningococcal Disease

- Meningococcal bacteria are carried in the nose and throat of healthy individuals and are spread through prolonged contact, including kissing.
- Meningococcal disease occurs when these bacteria enter the bloodstream.
- Symptoms of meningococcal disease include fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, sore muscles, and sometimes a red or purple rash.
- The disease can progress very quickly and can lead to death or permanent disability.
- Young people are at an increased risk of the disease and are more likely to spread the disease to others.

## Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine

- The meningococcal vaccine is the best protection against meningococcal disease.
- It provides protection against four strains, A, C, W and Y.
- It does not contain any live bacteria and cannot cause the meningococcal disease.
- Common side effects of the vaccine include localised pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, tiredness, headache, fever, nausea, rash and a reduced appetite.

## Program information

**What if my child is absent or refuses the vaccines on the day that the nurses visit the school?**

If you have completed and returned a consent card with 'yes' consent, you will receive a letter (via MyDHR or post) advising you of any missed vaccines and how to catch up at either your GP or pharmacy

**What if my child is not participating in the High School Immunisation Program?**

Please still complete the consent card and return it to your school as soon as possible. You will be able to access this vaccine FREE from your GP or participating pharmacy until your child's 20th birthday. Some GPs and pharmacies may charge a consultation fee.

**Can my Year 10 child consent to vaccination?**

Yes. If there is no consent card returned to your child's school and your child actively asks to be vaccinated with the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine, they can be assessed by a registered nurse in the Child and Adolescent Immunisation Team as a mature minor and give consent.

**If my child has already received the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine do they still need it?**

No. However, if your child has already received this vaccine please still complete the consent form to reflect this. This enables the nurses to clearly see which students do not require this vaccine to be given at school.

## Where can I get more information?

### ACT Health Immunisation Section

Monday to Friday **8.30am - 4.30pm**

[www.act.gov.au/health/topics/immunisation](http://www.act.gov.au/health/topics/immunisation)

## What will happen to my child's information?

Information is shared with the ACT Health Immunisation Section in the event of an Adverse Event Following Immunisation and for surveillance of immunisation coverage. Please see our websites for more details.

**How will I receive a record of my child's immunisation?**

Students will receive a card with post vaccination information on the day. All vaccines given to students through the High School Immunisation Program will be uploaded to the **Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)**. To access an official immunisation record, please visit your MyGov account, or download the Medicare Express Plus app on your mobile phone.

## Vaccine information

- Vaccines are administered by an injection to the upper arm.
- All vaccines can cause mild reactions. They are usually short lasting and do not require any special treatment.
- Very rarely an individual may experience a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine. The registered nurses in the Child and Adolescent Immunisation Team are trained to recognise and manage any immediate severe reactions. These generally occur within the first 15 minutes after receiving a vaccine. All students are monitored closely by the registered nurses during this time.

## Canberra Health Services High School Immunisation Program

Monday to Friday **8am - 4pm**

**02 5124 1585**

[www.health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/immunisation/adolescents](http://www.health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/immunisation/adolescents)  
(or scan the QR code on the right)



