



# Vaccine information

Read the information below carefully before signing the consent form. To learn more visit [healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation](https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation)

	Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa)	Varicella (Chickenpox)
<b>What is the disease?</b>	<p><b>Human papillomavirus (HPV)</b> is a common virus that affects both males and females. HPV is highly contagious and 80% of people who are sexually active will be infected with HPV at some point in their lives. The body usually clears the infection naturally and there are no symptoms, however in some cases the virus persists and can cause skin warts, genital warts and also lead to some cancers such as cervical, mouth, throat and anal.</p>	<p><b>Diphtheria</b> is a contagious and potentially life-threatening bacterial infection that causes severe breathing difficulties, heart failure and nerve damage.</p> <p><b>Tetanus</b> is a severe, often fatal bacterial disease that affects the nervous system. People with tetanus suffer severe painful muscle spasms, convulsions and lockjaw. These spasms may affect the whole body, causing suffocation and heart failure. Even with modern intensive care as many as one in 50 people who get tetanus will die.</p> <p><b>Pertussis</b>, or whooping cough, is a highly infectious respiratory disease that can be life threatening in babies. About one in 125 babies under six months of age who catch pertussis will die from pneumonia or brain damage. Adolescents and adults with pertussis will suffer cold-like symptoms and can have a severe cough for up to three months.</p>	<p><b>Chickenpox</b> is a highly contagious viral infection caused by the varicella-zoster virus. Most children who get chickenpox have a mild illness, with symptoms such as slight fever, runny nose, feeling generally unwell and a skin rash that turns to blisters.</p> <p>However, it is more severe in adults and can cause serious and even fatal illness in people with lowered immunity.</p> <p>People with low immunity, such as those undergoing cancer treatment, or people living with a chronic medical condition, like HIV are at particular risk. Infection during pregnancy can result in congenital abnormalities in the baby.</p> <p>One in 100,000 people who are infected with chickenpox will develop encephalitis (brain inflammation).</p>
<b>How is the disease spread?</b>	<p><b>HPV</b> is spread through genital-skin to genital-skin contact during sexual activity with someone who has the virus. HPV virus is microscopic so can pass through tiny breaks in the skin. It is not spread through blood or other body fluids. Condoms offer limited protection against HPV, because they do not cover all of the genital skin.</p>	<p><b>Diphtheria</b> bacteria can live in the mouth, nose, throat or skin on infected individuals. People can get diphtheria by breathing in the bacteria after an infected person has coughed or sneezed. People can also get diphtheria from close contact with discharges from an infected person's mouth, nose, throat or skin.</p> <p><b>Tetanus</b> is caused by bacteria found in soil and manure. The bacteria can enter the body through a wound as small as a pinprick. It cannot pass from person to person.</p> <p><b>Pertussis</b>, or whooping cough is very easily spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes the bacteria into the air which can then be inhaled by others close by. If untreated, a person with pertussis can infect others for up to three weeks after the onset of symptoms.</p>	<p><b>Chickenpox</b> is spread by coughing or sneezing early in the illness, before a rash is visible. Later in the illness, the virus is can also spread by direct contact with the fluid from the blisters. The infection is easily spread to people who have never had chickenpox or who have not been immunised. People are infectious from one or two days before the rash appears (that is, during the runny nose phase) and up to five days after (when the blisters have formed crusts or scabs).</p>

	Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa)	Varicella (Chickenpox)
<b>Is the vaccine safe and effective?</b>	<p><b>HPV</b> immunisation is most effective when it is received before sexual activity starts. The HPV vaccine is 85–100% effective in preventing the main types of HPV infection that cause cancers and genital warts. All females who have received the HPV vaccine will require regular screening for cervical cancer.</p> <p>Millions of doses of this vaccine have been given worldwide; it is safe and well tolerated.</p>	<p>The dTpa vaccine is very effective in preventing diphtheria and tetanus and about 80% effective in preventing pertussis.</p> <p>This booster vaccine has lower concentrations particularly of diphtheria and pertussis components compared with the vaccine given in early childhood. The booster vaccine is safe and well tolerated.</p>	<p>The varicella vaccine is the safest and most effective way to prevent chickenpox.</p> <p>A single dose of varicella vaccine is 80–85% effective in preventing chickenpox altogether and very effective in protecting against severe disease following infection.</p>
<b>What are the possible side effects and what can we do if they occur?</b>	<p><b>Common side effects</b></p> <p>Pain/redness/itchiness/a small lump in the arm where the injection was given.</p> <p>For relief, apply a cool, damp cloth on the affected area</p> <p><b>Less common side effects</b></p> <p>Low grade fever, feeling unwell, nausea, headache.</p> <p>For relief, affected people can take Paracetamol as directed on the label and drink extra fluids. If fever persists, see your GP.</p> <p><b>Extremely rare side effect</b></p> <p>Severe allergic reactions e.g. face swelling or difficulty breathing.</p> <p>If reactions are severe or persistent, seek immediate medical attention, and contact your local hospital.</p>	<p><b>Common side effects</b></p> <p>Mild temperature (below 38°C)</p> <p>For relief, take Paracetamol as directed on the label and drink extra fluids.</p> <p>If fever persists, see your GP.</p> <p>Pain/redness/itchiness/a small lump in the arm where the injection was given.</p> <p>For relief, apply a cool, damp cloth on the affected area.</p> <p><b>Extremely rare side effects</b></p> <p>Brachial neuritis (inflammation of a nerve in the arm, causing weakness or numbness).</p> <p>Severe allergic reactions e.g. face swelling or difficulty breathing.</p> <p>If reactions are severe or persistent, seek immediate medical attention, and contact your local hospital.</p>	<p><b>Common side effects</b></p> <p>Pain/redness/itchiness/a small lump in the arm where the injection was given.</p> <p>For relief, apply a cool, damp cloth on the affected area.</p> <p>Mild temperature (below 38°C).</p> <p>For relief affected people can take Paracetamol as directed on the label and drink extra fluids. If fever persists, see your GP.</p> <p><b>Uncommon side effect</b></p> <p>About two to five chickenpox-like spots may appear, usually at the injection site and sometimes on other areas. If this happens, the affected person should avoid direct contact with people with low immunity until the spots dry out.</p> <p><b>Extremely rare side effect</b></p> <p>Severe allergic reactions e.g. face swelling or difficulty breathing.</p> <p>If reactions are severe or persistent, seek immediate medical attention, and contact your local hospital.</p>

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