

Year 7 – Human Papillomavirus Vaccine & Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis
Year 10 – Meningococcal ACWY

What are the possible side effects to vaccination?

There are possible **mild reactions** that follow immunisation and a very small risk of a **serious allergic reaction** 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](#), [GP](#) 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](#) or be very [anxious](#), it may be better for them to be vaccinated with a GP rather than at school.

Uncommon 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](#) or be very [anxious](#), it may be better for them to be vaccinated with a GP or local council community session rather than at school.

[Immunisation side effects](#) should be reported to the [Victorian vaccine safety service \(SAFEVAC\)](#), the central reporting service in Victoria, on Tel. [1300 882 924](#) (select option 1), email enquiries@saefvic.org.au.

Source: *Better Health Channel*, 2024 –

[Secondary School Immunisation Program - Better Health Channel](#)