

Please complete and **return this form** to school, even if you decide not to immunise your child at school. It is a legal requirement to give consent to receive the vaccine and authorise release of information as discussed below.



adult diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (dTpa) vaccination

Year 7 Students

In the Northern Territory, **all students in Year 7** are eligible to receive the adult diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (dTpa) vaccine. If your child can't be vaccinated at school or misses out because of illness or absence, you can visit a Community Care Centre or GP for vaccination. The vaccine is free however, be aware that if visiting a GP you may have to pay a consultation fee. Missed doses of vaccine should be completed before the end of the current school year.

Information and Consent for Vaccination

■ What is diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis?

- **Diphtheria** is spread from person to person by inhaling respiratory secretions from infected people and sometimes by direct contact with discharges from lesions of infected people. The infection can cause obstruction to breathing and damage to the heart and nervous system. It can affect all age groups and about 10% of people with diphtheria will die. Others may have permanent heart damage.
- **Tetanus** causes painful muscle spasms that interrupt breathing and are often fatal. Tetanus spores live in the soil and disease can result from an otherwise trivial wound. In Australia, tetanus is rare and generally occurs in people who have never been vaccinated or who have not received a booster dose of vaccine.
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough)** is a highly contagious disease that is spread by the respiratory secretions of infected people.

It can be passed between people either by coughing and sneezing or by direct contact with infected mouth and nose secretions such as during kissing or sharing eating utensils. The infection causes severe persistent bouts of coughing that may be followed by dry retching and vomiting. Pneumonia, seizures (fitting) and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) are complications of pertussis.

■ How is the vaccine given?

The vaccine is given as a single injection (needle) into a muscle in the upper arm.

■ What about side effects?

Common side effects of the vaccine include tenderness, redness and swelling at the injection site for 1-2 days. Very rarely there is headache, tiredness, muscle pains, and/or fever. Putting a cool wet cloth on the injection site and giving paracetamol (Panadol®) helps to relieve pain and lower temperature. Severe allergic reactions are very rare.

Student Details

Student First Name: _____ Student Last Name: _____

Other Legal Names (if applicable): _____

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Address: _____

Medicare No:

☐ Non-Aboriginal ☐ Aboriginal ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ☐ Torres Strait Islander

School: _____ Class/Year: _____

Any severe reactions to previous vaccines ☐ No ☐ Yes - list _____

Pre-Vaccination Checklist

Your consent is required before your child can be immunised at school. Your child should not be immunised if any of the following apply:

- They are known to have had a severe reaction to any vaccine, part of a vaccine or drug
- They have a fever of 38.5°C or above on the day of immunisation
- They are pregnant or could be pregnant.

Consent for Vaccination - For Parent / Guardian to complete

I consent for my child to receive the **adult diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (dTpa) vaccine** and the information being recorded*. *Tick one box only.*



☐ **YES**

☐ **NO**

Parent / Guardian Name: _____ Daytime phone contact: _____

Email: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Privacy Information

*The information on this form will be recorded on the NT Immunisation Register and later transferred to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Inclusion on these registers is voluntary. All personal information collected by the NT Department of Health will be handled in accordance with the *Information Act* and the Department's Privacy Policy. Personal information disclosed to AIR is subject to the *Privacy Act* (Commonwealth).

For further information on privacy laws, visit: <https://infocomm.nt.gov.au/about-us/the-information-act>

Office use only

Vaccine Dose	Date Given	Batch Number	Site		Vaccinator Name
dTpa # 1			Left	Right	

Reason **not** vaccinated: ☐ Absent ☐ Refused ☐ Unwell ☐ No consent ☐ Missed dose letter sent ____ / ____ / ____

For further information regarding the School Vaccination Program please contact: Darwin **8922 8044** or Regional Centres: Katherine **8973 9049**; Alice Springs **8951 7549**; Nhulunbuy **8987 0357**; Tennant Creek **8962 4259**.