

Meningococcal W Vaccination Program

Consent in the School-based Immunisation Program Fact Sheet

For the program to be successful, it is vital that a high vaccine coverage rate is achieved.

Vaccinating in high schools and colleges provides the opportunity to reach a significant number of 15 to 19 year old teenagers in Tasmania.

Year 10 school students

The consent form **MUST** be signed by a parent/legal guardian.

Students aged 18 years and over

Students aged 18 and over may sign their own consent form.

Students in Years 11 and 12 (<18yo)

For students in college Years 11 and 12, aged 16 or 17 years, and still living with a parent/legal guardian, a completed consent form signed by the parent/guardian should be returned to school wherever possible.

However, the student may be able to sign their own consent form if they are able to understand the benefits and risks of the vaccination after reading the information sheet, at the discretion of the immuniser.

Immunisers will use clinical judgement to determine if the student is able to sign their own consent form (e.g. live independently, 'mature minor'). The ability of a person under 18 being able to consent for medical treatment for themselves is sometimes referred to as "Gillick competence" or being a "mature minor". If feasible, the immuniser or council staff may consider a telephone call to the parent to obtain verbal consent.

The Department of Education supports 'mature minors' providing consent for this program, as this is usual practice for medical procedures including vaccination.

If the consent form is signed by a mature minor under the age of 18 then the immuniser will document on the reverse of the consent form that they have been assessed as competent to sign the consent.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the Public Health Hotline – Tasmania on 1800 671 738 to speak to a Clinical Nurse Consultant.

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