



SCHOOL BASED IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

Why do we need to have screens for the Immunisation Clinic?

The National Guidelines for Immunisation states that the client needs to have privacy when being vaccinated due to the sensitive nature of information that is being discussed.

Why do we ask students to wear sport uniforms?

Sports uniforms enable easy access to the skin area for vaccination. This also assists with privacy as there is no need to remove clothing. The Cultural needs of some students also warrant this consideration.

Why do we need to have chairs that are adjustable for the clinic staff on the day of the school visit?

There are different heights of tables and sitting too high or too low can pose OH&S issues for staff who are attending the school site. There is also a lot of twisting and turning when the vaccinations are being undertaken that can cause neck and back problems if the chairs are not at the correct height or manoeuvrable.

Why do we need to have students supervised while they are waiting to be vaccinated?

Nursing staff are not trained in managing student behaviour and it can be very difficult to control the students if there is not a teacher present. It is necessary that the nursing staff are able to concentrate when speaking to the students. Mistakes can be made if there is too much noise and a student's identification is misheard.

It is preferable that students waiting for vaccinations are supervised separately from post vaccination students to assist in reducing possibility of distress.

Why do we need to allocate a suitable room for immunisation?

Small rooms, unclean areas, science labs and upstairs areas are inappropriate for school immunisations because they are unsafe for both the students and the immunisation nurse. Immunisation areas must be at a comfortable room temperature and be uncluttered with sufficient space to safely administer vaccines to:

- reduce the risk of needle stick injury to either nurse or student
- administer appropriate care if a student faints (can occur up to half an hour after vaccination which is why immunisation areas must be on ground level)
- enable easy access for emergency services if required:
- ensure students feel comfortable removing some items of clothing if required during the winter months
- reduce the number of students who may possibly faint due to hot, stuffy rooms

Why do we keep the students back for at least 15 minutes or at least in close proximity to staff?

If a student has an adverse reaction it is necessary to treat them as promptly as possible. Immunisation Nurses are trained to respond to immediate adverse events and must observe students for a minimum of 15 minutes after immunisations. If school staff remove the students from the immunisation area prior to the 15 minute time frame they take on responsibility for the students' wellbeing. Should an adverse event occur after the students have been removed the school staff are to administer first aid and contact the immunisation nurses immediately.

Why do we require jugs of water and glasses for students?

We offer students a glass of water if they feel faint. Research demonstrates less fainting episodes occur in individuals who increase their water intake prior to vaccination. Many schools also have biscuits to offer those students who become faint or have missed breakfast.

Why do the nurses need to take the written or verbal consent from parent or guardian?

It is a legal requirement that the vaccine provider be the person who can take written or verbal consent from the parent or legal guardian. We cannot take messages from administration support staff or teachers.

Why does the Department of Health need schools to hand over all returned consent forms, even those where parents have not given consent?

All completed consent forms are confidential legal medical documents and schools do not have authorisation to dispose of them. All completed consent forms need to be given to the medical officer responsible for the immunisation program at your school.

Why do we ask to have all forms returned regardless of whether a student is being immunised or not?

It is important to receive all forms back to ascertain the coverage rates of the program and how to target issues that may arise e.g. HPV. Immunisation Providers must report on the consent form return rate including those who do not consent to the Department of Health.

Where can I find more information?

www.immunise.health.gov.au
www.health.sa.gov.au
Communicable Disease Control Branch
Immunisation Section (08) 8226 7177
www.chess.sa.edu.au