

To pupils and guardians

Vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio (DTP-IPV-vaccine)

Pupils in 2nd grade (7–8 years) are offered a booster dose of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and polio as part of the Childhood Immunisation Programme. Three doses of this vaccine were given before the age of one as part of the programme but the effect wanes over time. To maintain good protection, a booster dose is offered against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio. Pupils will be offered the next booster dose in the 10th grade.

About the diseases

Diphtheria is a nose and throat infection caused by diphtheria bacteria. The bacteria create a toxin that can attack heart, kidney and nerve tissue. The disease can be fatal. During World War II there were diphtheria epidemics in Norway. Diphtheria still occurs in Europe and in other parts of the world.

Tetanus is caused by a bacteria found in soil. The bacteria create toxins that attack the nervous system, causing muscle weakness and painful cramps. Infection occurs when bacteria come into contact with an open wound. The disease does not transmit from person to person. The disease has a high mortality. It is rarer in Norway than in warmer climates.

Whooping cough (pertussis) is caused by bacteria that lead to a long-lasting (6-12 weeks) respiratory infection with intense coughing fits. Whooping cough can lead to brain damage, and in some cases, death. It can be dangerous for small children, especially infants. The disease can cause long-lasting problems for older children and adults. The disease is very infectious – almost everybody caught the disease before vaccination was introduced.

Poliomyelitis is a viral disease that usually triggers cold symptoms, body aches or stomach upsets. It can cause brain inflammation (encephalitis) and sometimes permanent paralysis. Death may occur. Before vaccination began in 1957, there were annual polio epidemics in Norway. Many hundreds of children and adolescents developed permanent paralysis and up to 10 per cent of the population died. Since vaccination began, the disease is under control in Norway and most other countries. Europe was declared as polio-free in 2002 but the disease is still prevalent in many African and Asian countries. Unvaccinated people can be infected when travelling and may infect other unvaccinated people on their return.

About the vaccine

The vaccine used is called Tetravac. It may cause temporary redness, swelling or pain at the injection site. Some people may develop a mild fever. More information about any side effects after Tetravac can be found on the Norwegian Medicines Agency's website - www.slv.no

Before vaccination

Before vaccination, the public health nurse will ask if your child is well and if there were any reactions to earlier vaccinations.

Vaccination is scheduled: Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

Public health nurse: _____ Tel: _____

Detach here:

I/we wish that my/our child:

Should be vaccinated with DTP- IPV

Should not be vaccinated with DTP-IPV

Pupil's name : _____ Date of birth: _____ Class: _____

Parent's signature: _____ Tel: _____