

For pupils and parents/guardians

## **Vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and polio (dTp-IPV vaccine)**

The Norwegian Childhood Immunisation Programme offers pupils in 10th grade (15–16-years-old) a booster dose of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and poliomyelitis. In the Childhood Immunisation Programme, three doses of the vaccine are given before the child is one-year-old, and a booster dose is given in 2nd grade. A new booster dose is now being offered to maintain this protection.

### **About the diseases**

**Diphtheria** is an acute infection in the upper airways that is caused by diphtheria bacteria. The bacteria produce toxins that cause the mucous membranes in the throat to swell so much that it becomes difficult to breathe. The toxins can also attack the heart, kidneys and nerve tissues. The disease can be fatal. The bacteria are found in parts of Europe and other areas of the world.

**Tetanus** is caused by a bacteria present in soil. The bacteria produce toxins that attack the nervous system causing muscle stiffness and painful cramps. Infection can occur when the bacteria enter open wounds and it is not contagious. The disease has a high death rate. Tetanus is less common in Scandinavia than in warmer countries.

**Whooping cough (pertussis)** is an infection in the airways with persistent, intense bouts of coughing that last 6–12 weeks. In babies and infants, whooping cough can cause the child to stop breathing. It can cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) with subsequent brain damage and, in rare cases, death. In older children and adults, the disease can cause chronic problems. The disease is highly contagious - almost everyone was infected before the vaccination programme began.

**Poliomyelitis** is caused by a virus and normally gives cold symptoms, pain in the body or diarrhoea. It can cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) and can result in permanent paralysis. Deaths occur. Today, polio is eradicated in Norway but unvaccinated people can be infected when travelling abroad and infect others upon their return.

### **About the vaccine**

The vaccine used is called Repevax. It can cause temporary redness, tenderness and swelling at the injection site. Some people get a slight fever. You can find more information about any side effects after vaccination with Repevax from the Norwegian Medicines Agency: [www.legemiddelsok.no](http://www.legemiddelsok.no) (only Norwegian).

### **Remember to tell the nurse**

Inform the nurse if the child has any allergy or have had unusual reactions after previous vaccines or after received medication. You should also tell them if your child has been vaccinated against tetanus during the last year or is getting allergy vaccination (hyposensitisation).

For more information go to <https://www.fhi.no/en/id/vaccines/childhood-immunisation-programme/>