

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 2nd grade (7–8 years of age) a booster dose of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio. In the Childhood Immunisation Programme, three doses of the vaccine are given before the child is one year old. A booster dose is now being offered to maintain this good protection. The pupils will be offered a new booster dose against the same diseases in the 10th class.

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 Tetravac. In case of delivery problems on Tetravac, it is the identical vaccine Tetraxim used (same manufacturer, same ingredients). It can cause temporary redness, tenderness and swelling at the injection site. Some people may develop a mild fever. You can find more information about any side effects after vaccination with Tetravac/Tetraxim at the Norwegian Medicines Agency www.legemiddelsok.no (only in 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/>