

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

### Remember to tell the nurse

Tell the nurse if your child has any allergies or other health problems. They should also be told if your child has been vaccinated against tetanus during the last year outside the national immunisation programme. It is not harmful to vaccinate your child if he or she has had one or more of the diseases.

For more information go to <https://www.fhi.no/en/childvaccines>

**Vaccination is planned for:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Tear off here

Pupil's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like my/our child  to be vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio  
 not to be vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Information for the nurse: