



**The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia**

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND (FNQ) COVID-19 SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR Western Cape College

October 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian

COVID-19 has changed the way we live and interact. To assist in protecting individuals and our community from COVID-19, the Commonwealth Government is rolling out, via community pharmacies, a National COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy for every Australian from 12 years of age.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (the Guild), which is the peak organisation representing community pharmacies, has developed a comprehensive COVID-19 School Vaccination Program. Community pharmacists are highly trained primary healthcare providers and have been administering vaccinations in Queensland since 2014.

The Program is for students aged 12 years and older and will be available at Western Cape College during Term 4. For convenience, a fully accredited and highly trained vaccinating pharmacist from your local community pharmacy will visit Western Cape College to administer the Moderna (Spikevax) vaccine to students who wish to be vaccinated, and whose parents, legal guardians or other authorised persons have provided consent. Vaccination against COVID-19 is not compulsory, but COVID-19 vaccinations are highly recommended by the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer and Queensland's Chief Health Officer.

There are an estimated 21,000 students in FNQ who will be vaccinated through the COVID-19 School Vaccination Program with two doses, 28 days apart. Dates for vaccination at Western Cape College will be confirmed between the school and the local pharmacy taking into consideration current school commitments (including other vaccinations to be provided in Term 4).

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION: PROVIDING CONSENT

To help facilitate timely recording of the vaccination services in the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR), as required by Commonwealth law, **electronic consent forms are preferred.**

Each student needs legal consent prior to vaccination, regardless of their age above 12 years. Consent must be provided by the student's parents, legal guardians or other authorised persons via a unique consent form for each student. Families with more than one child at the school will need to complete separate forms for each child.

To access the consent form, simply click on the link below. Enter your details, and that of each child, to give consent to receive the Moderna (Spikevax) COVID-19 vaccination through the FNQ COVID-19 School Vaccination Program.

https://pharmacyguild.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Y2dTTLr0AqTmS

The paper-based form attached to this letter can be used if access to the electronic form is not possible. We kindly ask that you do not use any other consent forms or processes for this program.



Enclosed with this information is:

- Australian Government - Moderna (Spikevax) COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- Hard copy COVID-19 School Vaccination Program Consent and Information Form
- What to Expect After Your Moderna (SPIKEVAX) Vaccine – a resource for children and adolescents.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What vaccine will be available?

Moderna (SpikeVax) COVID-19 Vaccine. More information on Moderna is available on the Commonwealth [Department of Health's website](#).

Is the vaccine safe for my child?

Yes, based on data from international clinical trials, an expert medical panel called the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended Moderna (Spikevax) for children 12 years and older.

ATAGI supports COVID-19 vaccination in all adolescents from 12 years of age. All vaccines go through a rigorous testing program run by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA thoroughly tests all medicines to ensure they are safe.

What if my child has a complex medical condition?

The Queensland Specialist Immunisation Service, based in the Queensland Children's Hospital, can provide specialist COVID-19 vaccination advice for children with complex medical conditions. You can read more about [their services here](#).

Should I discuss COVID-19 vaccination with my child?

We strongly encourage you to speak with your child about COVID-19 and the national vaccination roll out. It's natural for your child to be curious and have questions about COVID-19 vaccinations. [Here are some tips](#) for speaking to children before and after they receive a vaccine.

What does this mean for parents?

Parents, legal guardians, or other authorised persons need to give consent for their child to be vaccinated. You should consider your child's medical history and, if there are any precautionary conditions, seek advice from a GP, immunisation specialist, or other medical practitioner.

Vaccination is highly recommended, but it is voluntary. No student will be administered a COVID-19 vaccine without parental or guardian consent, and no student will be vaccinated if they refuse on the day.

What does this mean for my child?

Your child will receive an intramuscular injection of the Moderna (Spikevax) COVID-19 Vaccine at school, during school hours. Your child will need to sit still in a chair, communicate with a pharmacist and receive a needle through the skin into the muscle at the top of either their left or right arm (deltoid muscle). After receiving the vaccine your child will need to be monitored for a minimum of 15 minutes before they can resume normal school activities.

Students may experience some mild side effects within 24-48 hours after receiving the vaccine. They will be provided with written information about what to expect after vaccination.

Common mild side effects may include:

- pain at the injection site
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle pain or joint pain
- fever and chills

What if my child is already vaccinated?

Some children may already be vaccinated. Everyone receiving a COVID-19 vaccine needs to receive **two doses of the same vaccine**. If your child has received a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as a first dose, they will need to receive a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as a second dose and will be unable to participate in this school vaccination program.

What happens to my data and my child's consent data?

Under the *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulations 2021* of the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*, 'the record must be kept for seven (7) years from the date on which the vaccine was administered and may be kept manually or electronically, provided the software meets industry standards for security and privacy'.

Access to vaccination and consent data is restricted and will be retained for the legally specified period (see above) within the pharmacy's professional services software and the AIR (via Medicare and Services Australia). This is currently the practice in Queensland for all vaccinations in community pharmacy regardless of type. The Guild will only retain data for the school year that your child is eligible for vaccination. The information will be deleted from any electronic system and hard copies of the information will not be retained.

To protect disclosed information, the law binds school immunisation providers to comply with the National Privacy Principles. All data collected is stored securely, above industry standards in Australia and not offshore.

All school immunisation providers are bound to comply with the *Queensland Information Privacy Act 2009*. This Act stipulates the requirements for the secure collection, use, storage and disposal of personal information to be followed by school health program providers.

Where can I access my child's vaccination certificate?

Your child's vaccination certificate will be added to your MyGov account if your child is listed on your MyGov account as a dependent child. Certificates may be accessed through either the Medicare app or your MyGov account.

If you don't have a Medicare card or MyGov account, you can obtain your vaccination certificate by calling the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809 and they will mail your statement to you.



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I have more questions – how do I get answers?

Further fact sheets about Moderna (Spikevax) can be found online, including [information for teens and parents/guardians](#), and [information about the vaccine](#). Or, alternatively, you can visit your local community pharmacy to learn more.

In advance, we know this is a unique time and we thank you for your cooperation, assistance and consideration of the COVID-19 School Vaccination Program.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trent Twomey".

Adjunct Professor Trent Twomey
The Pharmacy Guild of Australia President
FNQ Pharmacy Guild Member