



Please complete and **return this form** to school, even if you decide not to immunise your child at school. It is a legal requirement to give consent to receive the vaccine and authorise release of information as discussed below.

# Pneumococcal vaccination

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people  
aged 14 years and over**

In the Northern Territory, **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 14 years and over (Year 9)** are eligible to receive a pneumococcal (Pneumovax®23) vaccine. If your child can't be vaccinated at school or misses out because of illness or absence, you can visit a Health Centre, Aboriginal Health Service or GP for vaccination. The vaccine is free however, be aware that if visiting a GP you may have to pay a consultation fee.

## Information and Consent for Vaccination

### ■ What is pneumococcal disease?

Many healthy people carry the pneumococcal bacteria in their nose and throat; especially young children. There are more than 90 different types of pneumococcal bacteria. The bacteria can be spread to others by direct oral contact such as kissing or contact with articles soiled with infected mouth or nose secretions. Occasionally the bacteria will cause an infection by invading the body or blood stream most commonly resulting in pneumonia. It is uncommon to get infected from a person who is sick with pneumococcal disease.

### ■ Why only offer this vaccine to students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent?

Anyone can get pneumococcal disease though it is more common for young children, the elderly, Aboriginal people, people who smoke, people with chronic illness and those with weakened immune systems to contract the disease and become unwell.

All babies, older people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents are routinely vaccinated. The vaccine offered helps protect people from 23 different types of the pneumococcal bacteria.

### ■ How is the vaccine given?

The vaccine is given as an injection (needle) into a muscle in the upper arm.

### ■ What about side effects?

Common side effects of the vaccine include tenderness, redness and swelling at the injection site for 1-2 days, and/or a mild fever. Putting a cool wet cloth on the injection site and giving paracetamol helps to relieve pain and lower temperature. Severe allergic reactions are very rare.

## Student Details

Student First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Legal Names (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  Male  Female

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicare No:

Non-Aboriginal  Aboriginal  Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  Torres Strait Islander

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Class/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies:  No  Yes - list \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Vaccination Checklist

Your consent is required before your child can be immunised at school. Your child should not be immunised if any of the following apply:

- They have had a pneumococcal (Pneumovax®23) vaccination in the past five years
- They are known to have had a severe reaction to a vaccine before
- They have a fever of 38.5°C or above on the day of immunisation
- They are pregnant or could be pregnant.

## Consent for Vaccination - For Parent / Guardian to complete

I consent for my child to receive the **Pneumococcal (Pneumovax®23) vaccine** and the information being recorded\*. *Tick one box only.*

▶  **YES**  **NO**

Parent / Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Privacy Statement:

\*The information on this form will be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and immunisation records can be accessed through MyGov. All personal information collected and disclosed to AIR by the Department of Health (NT) will be handled in accordance with the Information Act 2002 (the Act) including the requirements set by the Information Privacy Provisions (IPPS) at schedule 2 of the Act. The Department of Health takes all reasonable steps to ensure the information we collect is stored securely, protecting it from misuse, loss, unauthorized access, modification or disclosure. All information disclosed to AIR(Cth) is subject to the Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015 and the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). For further information please contact 08 8999 2880 or email: [infoprivacyhealth.ths@nt.gov.au](mailto:infoprivacyhealth.ths@nt.gov.au)

### Office use only

Vaccine Dose	Date Given	Batch Number	Site		Vaccinator Name
Pneumovax®23 #1			Left	Right	

Reason **not** vaccinated:  Absent  Refused  Unwell  No consent  Missed dose letter sent \_\_\_\_\_

**For further information** regarding the School Vaccination Program please contact: Darwin **8922 8044** or Regional Centres: Katherine **8973 9049**; Alice Springs **8951 7549**; Nhulunbuy **8987 0357**; Tennant Creek **8962 4259**.