NSW SCHOOL-BASED VACCINATION PROGRAM

Each year NSW Health offers the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school-based vaccination program.

In 2013 the following vaccines will be offered:

- Diptheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) vaccine for all Year 7 students

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be offered to Year 7 male and female students, and to Year 9 male students, as a 3-dose course over a six-month period (students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school into Year 8, however there will be no catch up offer in the school program for Yr 9 boys).

- Hepatitis B vaccine for all Year 7 students who have never received a course of hepatitis B vaccine when they were a baby

- Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine for all Year 7 students who have not previously received varicella vaccine or had chickenpox disease.

Catch up HPV vaccine will be offered on each visit to girls who commenced but not completed the course during 2012.

HPV VACCINATION FOR BOYS TO COMMENCE IN NSW

Boys in NSW high schools will be offered human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination from 2013 to provide protection against developing infections that can lead to cancer.

In 2013, the 3-dose course of vaccine will be offered to:

- Year 7 boys as part of the routine school-based vaccination program
- Year 9 boys as part of the national ‘catch up’ program in 2013 and 2014 only.

HPV vaccination has been offered to female students in Year 7 since 2007. In 2011, 81% of Year 7 girls received at least one dose of the three-dose course of HPV vaccine.

HPV is the name given to a group of viruses that affect both females and males. Most people who are sexually active will have a genital HPV infection at some time in their lives. HPV
infection usually causes no symptoms and goes away by itself. However, in rare cases infection can cause life-threatening cancers. Almost all cases of cervical cancer and genital warts are due to HPV infection. HPV also causes cancers in other parts of the body, including the vulva, vagina, penis and anus.

The vaccine is highly effective in preventing the main types of HPV infection and is most effective when it is given to people before they are exposed to the virus. As well as protecting males from HPV infections, immunising young men will also help protect women from infection. The vaccine is registered for use from 10 years of age and is only provided free for male students who commence the course in Year 7 or Year 9.

For more information please visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation

INSTRUCTIONS

To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to read all the information provided in the Parent information kits, complete the Consent Form and return it to their child’s school. Please ensure that your child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation. To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child’s name) on the Consent Form, as this is required to record the student’s information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and, for female students only, link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program. A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at the clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.