

Changes to the NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2017 the following vaccines will be offered:

YEARS	VACCINE	NUMBER OF DOSES
Year 7	Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine	2-doses in 2017 at least 6 months apart*
	Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine	Single dose
	Varicella vaccine (chickenpox) – catch-up	Single dose
Years 11-12	Meningococcal ACWY vaccine	Single dose

* The second dose of HPV vaccine is being delayed to later in the year (at least 6 months after the first dose) to allow the recently-announced Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination Program to be offered to students in Years 11 and 12 from Term 2 when the second dose of HPV vaccine is usually given. There is no harm for Year 7 students in delaying the second dose of HPV vaccine and further advice for parents will be provided later in the year regarding HPV course completion.

Parent Information Kits that include an information sheet, consent form and privacy statement **will be sent home** to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child's school, and
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Please note that students who commence HPV vaccination in school clinics in Year 7 but do not complete the course during the school year may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8. **Students who have any HPV doses at their GP will be advised to complete the course with their GP.**

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. 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.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic as a physical card. 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.
