



February 2010

Update to Boards of Trustees, Principals and Education Sector Groups on the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Immunisation Programme

Thank you for your on-going support for the HPV Immunisation Programme. This year the programme will again be offered through participating schools. 2010 is the last year of the school-based catch-up programme for girls in years 9 to 13. From 2011 the HPV immunisation will only be available through schools for year 8 girls.

Programme achievement in 2009

Over 88,500 girls and young women started the HPV immunisation programme in 2009. Within the school-based programme 95% of eligible schools participated and just over half of the girls who were offered the immunisation took it up.

Uptake was particularly strong among Māori and Pacific girls, with higher overall coverage achieved compared with other ethnicities. This was a highlight that we are keen to see continued in 2010, as Māori and Pacific women experience a higher burden of cervical cancer than other ethnic groups in New Zealand.

Privacy and Information sharing

As in 2009, district health boards (DHBs) and public health nurses would like to continue to access specific information about eligible students from school rolls to help administer the programme (full name, date of birth, ethnicity, contact address, phone number and school room number). Again, boards of trustees need to consider whether to provide this information.

During 2008/09 the Ministry of Health worked closely with key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education, New Zealand School Trustees Association and advocacy groups to ensure that information and processes for obtaining and handling information were robust, and to facilitate school participation in the immunisation programme.

In 2008 the Ministries of Health and Education sought the view of the Privacy Commissioner. Her view was, that given the importance of the public health goals at issue, school boards of trustees may disclose personal information about students for immunisation purposes; as long as they first notify parents/guardians they intend to do so.

All girls' information will be managed according to the Privacy Commissioner's recommendations and in line with DHB privacy policies and guidelines. Boards of trustees and principals are welcome to contact the DHB HPV Project Manager or DHB Privacy Officer to discuss this in more detail. For DHB contact details see <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/contact-us-dhb>. A presentation for Boards of Trustees is available on the Ministry of Health website <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/immunisation-diseasesandvaccines-hpv-programme#resources>

For more information

Privacy

Boards of trustees and principals can access additional information about privacy principles in:

- the Office of the Privacy Commissioner's recently released guidelines:
<http://www.privacy.org.nz/privacy-in-schools-a-guide-to-the-privacy-act-for-principals-teachers-and-boards-of-trustees/>,
- the NZ School Trustees Association (NZSTA) guidelines:
<http://www.nzsta.org.nz> under resources /legal resources
- and boards may contact the NZSTA Help desk [0800 782 435].

Information management

A fact sheet on the Ministry of Health's information management systems is available on the Ministry of Health website

[http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/7946/\\$File/hpv-information-management.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/7946/$File/hpv-information-management.pdf)

HPV programme

Information about the HPV Immunisation Programme, including specific information for schools and copies of advice that the Ministries of Health and Education have provided to schools and education sector groups is available on the Ministry of Education's website. Visit www.minedu.govt.nz and type 'HPV' into the search engine. Or visit www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation.