



14 October 2008

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation programme update to boards, principals and education sector groups

Girls and young women born on or after 1 January 1990 are eligible for the Ministry of Health's HPV Immunisation Programme. The programme started in September 2008, through primary health care providers, with free vaccinations for young women born in 1990 and 1991.

From late in term one 2009, and on an ongoing basis, vaccinations will be provided for 12 year old girls (Year 8 in schools), largely through a school-based programme. The remaining girls in the catch up programme will be able to access free vaccinations during 2009 and 2010 through school-based programmes and primary health care providers.

The school-based immunisation programme

The Ministry of Health is working nationally with district health boards (DHBs) to deliver a school-based HPV Immunisation Programme for eligible female students in school years 8 to 13. The programme will operate alongside primary health care providers and other non school settings.

School participation

The Ministries of Education and Health support school-based programmes, as they are associated with higher coverage rates and reduced inequalities compared to vaccine delivery in other settings.

Public health nurses will be liaising with individual schools about how best to provide immunisations in each school setting.

Our aim is to ensure that school boards, principals, proprietors and education sector groups have access to all information they need to support provision of the school-based programme and to allow students and their parents/guardians access to the same information.

The ultimate decision regarding whether your school participates in the school-based aspect of the immunisation programme, is for your board of trustees to make, based on information provided.

The district health boards (through public health nurses and existing relationships with schools) will ask boards of trustees if their schools will participate in the school-based HPV Immunisation Programme by allowing students to be immunised on school premises.

Student roll information

District health boards and public health nurses have indicated that they would like to access the following information from school rolls to facilitate higher immunisation coverage rates:

- female student's full name
- date of birth
- ethnicity
- contact address and phone number
- school room number

Boards of trustees will need to consider whether to provide this information.

The Ministries of Health and Education have sought the view of the Privacy Commissioner. Her view is, 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 that they intend to do so.

If, however, boards decide to withhold school roll information, then the district health boards (and the public health nurses) may request that the boards themselves disseminate information about the HPV Immunisation Programme to parents and students on behalf of the district health board.

Consent of parent/guardian

The immunisation process will be subject to the Health and Disability Services Consumer Rights Code. This provides that consumers, and this includes people who are entitled to consent on behalf of consumers, have to give informed consent to providing health and disability services.

If boards of trustees agree to their school participating in the HPV Immunisation Programme by having the immunisation done at school, the public health nurses will then immunise the students, after the parent/guardian or student aged 16 years and over consent has been obtained. Consent forms will be given to all students for their parent/guardian to sign indicating whether they agree to the student receiving the vaccination at school. The Ministry of Health has advised public health nurses that no vaccination should be given on school premises without a completed and signed consent form.

It is expected that all students will have a consent form signed by their parent/guardian. However, students aged 16 years and over may complete and sign the consent form for themselves. School boards may wish to talk to public health nurses about consent processes.

The consent form will clearly explain that parents/guardians and students aged 16 years and over are consenting for all three doses of the vaccine and they may withdraw consent at any time during the course of the three immunisations by contacting the public health nurse directly. Contact details will be provided on the consent form.

School students under the age of 16 years who seek immunisation and do not have parental consent will be advised by the public health nurse of alternative immunisation providers outside the school-based programme, such as their family doctor, Māori or Pacific provider or health clinic. These students will be assessed by the provider as to whether they are competent to give informed consent before receiving the HPV vaccine.

Resources

Resources, including posters, DVDs, flip charts, brochures and post cards, suitable for varying age groups, have been distributed to public health nurses to use when introducing the immunisation programme to 12 to 18 year old female students in schools.

Public health nurses will deliver immunisation messages to students in schools and answer any questions, while continuing to deliver their health programmes - school management and staff are not expected to manage this responsibility.

District health board contacts

The regional contact details for each district health board are:

DHB	DHB Project Manager	Email	Phone
Auckland	Kathy Pritchard	kathypr@adhb.govt.nz	09 631 0791
Bay of Plenty	Wendy Broome	weelan@xnet.co.nz	07 543 5173
Capital/coast	Maya Zwikael	maya.zwikael@ccdhb.org.nz	04 803 1162
Canterbury	Alison Young	alison.young@cdhb.govt.nz	03 364 4163
Counties Manukau	Sue Miller	suemi@adhb.govt.nz	021 222 8099
Hawkes Bay	Joan Plowman	joan.plowman@hawkesbaydhb.govt.nz	06 834 1815
Hutt Valley	Trish Thomson	trish.thomson@huttvalleydhb.org.nz	04 570 9637
Lakes	Phillipa King	phillipa.king@lakesdhb.govt.nz	027 391 6115
Midcentral	Jan Guppy	jan.guppy@midcentraldhb.govt.nz	06 350 4560
Nelson / Marlborough	Lois Plum	lois.plum@paradise.net.nz	03 527 8575
Northland	Jacqui Westren	jacqui.westren@northlanddhb.org.nz	09 430 4101 (x 7214)
Otago / Southland	Ron Craft	ron.craft@osdhbs.govt.nz	03 474 0999
South Canterbury	Jason Power	jpower@timhosp.co.nz	03 684 4000
Taranaki	Becky Jenkins	becky.jenkins@tdhb.org.nz	06 753 7610
Tairāwhiti	Jan Ewart	jan.ewart@tdh.org.nz	06 869 0570 (x 8549)
Waikato	Ruth Rhodes	rhodesr@waikatodhb.govt.nz	021 221 3478
Wairarapa	Tessa-Jane Dennes	tessa-jane.dennes@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz	06 370 5020
Waitemata	Craig Murray	craig.murray@waitematadhb.govt.nz	021 248 0144

West Coast	Sandeep Reddy	sandeep.reddy@westcoastdhb.org.nz	03 768 0499 (x 2830)
Whanganui	Itayi Mapanda	itayi.mapanda@wdhb.org.nz	06 348 8922

More information

For more information about the HPV Immunisation Programme:

- visit the Ministry of Health [website](http://www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation): www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation
- [email](mailto:hpv@moh.govt.nz) the Ministry of Health: hpv@moh.govt.nz
- phone 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863)

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