HPV vaccination schedule

Change to the National Immunisation Program

Information for parents/guardians of children in Year 7

There has been a recent change to the National Immunisation Program human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination schedule.

The HPV vaccine is free for children in Year 7 through the Queensland School Immunisation Program. It provides protection against a range of HPV-related diseases, including cervical cancer, head and neck cancer, genital cancers, and genital warts.

In February 2023, the National Immunisation Program changed the recommended human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine schedule for Year 7 students from two doses to one dose, using the same vaccine.

The expert Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation has reviewed recent international scientific and clinical evidence and determined that a single dose of the HPV vaccine gives comparable protection to two doses.

Beginning in the 2023 school year, the Queensland School Immunisation Program will provide the recommended one dose of HPV vaccine in line with the national advice.

The Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service Public Health Unit Immunisation service will continue using the on-line consent process as per previous years. You will receive an email with links to the consent form prior to your child's clinic.

Except for young people with certain immunocompromising conditions, students who have received their first HPV vaccine are now considered fully vaccinated and will not require any further doses. For those young people with certain immunocompromising conditions, there is no change to the recommendation of three doses of the HPV vaccine.

For more information, please contact Gold Coast Public Health Immunisation: E: <u>admin.immuniseGC@health.qld.gov.au</u> P: 1800 940 750

More information can be found at:

- HPV vaccine Factsheet outlining changes under the National Immunisation Program in 2023
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
- Children and adolescents (10 19 years of age) Vaccination Matters (initiatives.qld.gov.au)
- Immunisation | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

