

TO PARENTS  
Y7 AND 8 STUDENTS

**Gold Coast Hospital  
and Health Service**

19 May 2016

Dear Parent

**Re: Roll out of the school Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine program**

Most children in Years 7 and 8 on the Gold Coast have now received their first HPV vaccine and we are starting the roll out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose in our schools.

While I am pleased with the number of children who are being protected I am aware that there are on-going concerns among a number of parents about the safety of this vaccine and additionally some confusion regarding why boys would be offered or need the vaccine despite **one-third of all HPV related cancers occurring in boys and men.**

It takes 6 months for children to receive all three doses of HPV vaccine so we are approaching the end of the time when children can commence the program and still complete their course this year. The Public Health Unit conducts seven (7) clinics a month ([https://www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth/docs/GCH098\\_ImmunisationCalendar\\_LR.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth/docs/GCH098_ImmunisationCalendar_LR.pdf)) at settings across the Gold Coast to enable children who have missed doses to catch up.

There is still an opportunity for children who have not commenced the vaccine program to commence at one of our clinics and then receive further doses either at clinic or with other children at the school.

I am attaching links to two recent videos explaining the importance of this vaccine and the importance for boys in particular. There is also a QR Code that can be scanned to take parents to these videos.

Any parent wishing to explore ways to enable their child to catch up if they have not commenced vaccination, or have missed a vaccination, is urged to contact me on "paul.vanbuynder@health.qld.gov.au or 0414 278 031.

Boys <https://youtu.be/5aN6Ub9Z-II>

Girls <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjQ6TmPXTuc>

Yours sincerely



Professor Paul Van Buynder  
Staff Specialist Public Health