

HPV vaccination schedule

Change to the National Immunisation Program

Information for parents/guardians of children in year 7

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.

However, consent forms for the 2023 calendar year will reference two doses of HPV vaccine and one dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) (whooping cough) vaccine. **Please complete, sign, and return this form to your child's school.**

Children will no longer be provided with a second dose of HPV vaccine as part of the School Immunisation Program as it is contrary to the current National Immunisation Program advice.

The consent form can also be downloaded at www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/school-based-vaccination-program Children will not be vaccinated unless a signed consent form has been returned.

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, visit the following links:

<https://vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au/when-to-immunise/children-and-adolescents/>
www.health.gov.au/immunisation