



Enquiries to: Linda Bertram  
A/Manager  
Immunisation Program  
Telephone: (07) 3328 9701  
File Ref: C-ECTF-23/1206

Queensland Health

Dear Principal

I write to advise you that 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.

Vaccination programs are subject to change based on regular review and consideration of the latest expert evidence.

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.

In Queensland, the HPV vaccine is primarily delivered through the free 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.

**Beginning in the 2023 school year, the Queensland School Immunisation Program (SIP) will offer one dose of HPV.** The other components of the SIP schedule remain unchanged.

It is likely some planned SIP clinics at your school will be affected. Your SIP provider will be able to provide you with more information.

It is important to notify parents of this change to the HPV vaccination schedule. Please use your school's communication channels (e.g. newsletters, emails) to notify parents of year 7 students of the change by using content in the attached factsheet.

Please note:

- Parents of year 7 students will receive information and a consent form referring to two doses of HPV vaccine. Parents do not need to complete a new year 7 consent form. Parents who did not receive, or misplaced the vaccination consent form, can download it at <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/school-based-vaccination-program>
- Parents can be reassured that there is no need for their child to have two doses of the HPV vaccine.
- Most young people who have already received one HPV vaccine dose are now considered fully vaccinated and will not need any further doses.
- For young people with certain immunocompromising conditions, there is no change to the recommendation of three doses of the HPV vaccine.

Questions about this change can be directed to your School Immunisation Program provider or the Queensland Immunisation Program at [immunisation@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@health.qld.gov.au)

More information can be found at:

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

Thank you for your support of this important public health program.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "LM Kinlay".

Dr Lynne McKinlay  
**Chief Health Officer, Queensland**  
9 February 2023

**Attachment A:** Information for parents/legal guardians of parents of year 7 students.