



Public Health South
Main Block, Level 2, Wakari Hospital
Taieri Road, Dunedin
Private Bag 1921, Dunedin 9054
Tel: 03 476 9800 Fax: 03 476 9858

February 2025

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for year 8 students

Dear parents/caregivers,

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is now part of the New Zealand National Immunisation Schedule for both boys and girls in year 8 at school. This programme is delivered by Public Health Nurses in schools throughout the Otago region.

Both males and females up to the age of 26, are eligible for the funded vaccine.

The vaccine protects against cancers which are caused by HPV viruses, HPV is a common virus that infects about 80% of people at sometime in their lives. Most HPV infections can cause a number of different cancers for all genders later in life – such as cervical and throat cancer. Immunisation is your best protection.

The public health nurse for your school will deliver an education session to all the eligible students, and your child will bring home a consent form for you to fill in and return to the school. **Please inform the school if you do not wish for your child to attend the education session.**

Please fill in the consent form and return it to the school whether you consent or do not consent to the vaccinations.

No student will be vaccinated at school unless they have a consent form signed by a parent or legal guardian.

The HPV vaccination is also available through your GP/practice nurse, at no cost. Please phone them to make an appointment should you prefer your child to be vaccinated at your GP.

The consent form contains information about the HPV vaccine and the diseases covered. Should you have any more questions please do not hesitate to contact:

- The public health nurse for your school
- Your GP/practice nurse
- Immunisation information line on 0800 466 863 (0800 IMMUNE)
- [Immunisations for school-aged tamariki](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tash Richards'.

Tash Richards
HPV School Based programme coordinator
Te Punaka Oraka – Public Health Nursing
03 476 9881
Natasha.richards@southerndhb.govt.nz