

Three big changes to the vaccine program in 2015

Information for Victorian secondary schools

1

Principals are authorised to release student and parent/carer contact details to the local council immunisation service.

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* has been amended. Principals are now authorised to provide local councils with student and parent/carer contact details for the purposes of delivering the secondary school vaccine program.

The change reduces the administrative burden on schools by enabling local councils to contact parents directly about the secondary school vaccine program.

Information on how to make this happen is addressed in an *Implementation Kit*, which participating schools need to put into action for the 2015 school year.

Key dates 2014:

- **2 September** – *Implementation Kit* distributed.
- **Late 2014** – instructions on how to electronically transfer contact details to local council will be provided.

Key dates 2015:

- **Week of 28 January** – distribute the *Collection Statement* to all students in Year 7 to Year 10
- **February** – record any objections from parents
- **February 28** – transfer contact details to local council as soon as possible after census date, edited as per parent requests.

2

For one year only, in 2015, the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) (dTp) vaccine program will be offered to secondary school students in Years 7, 8 and 9, in addition to the existing Year 10 program.

From 2016 the dTp vaccine, along with other free vaccines, will be offered to Year 7 students only.

This transition will provide students with earlier protection from these diseases and simplify the vaccine program from 2016 onwards.

3

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for secondary school boys in Year 9 will cease in December 2014.

This vaccine program has been time-limited to target boys aged 14-15 years.

HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7.

Table 1: The vaccine program from 2015

	Year 7 *	Year 8 *	Year 9 *	Year 10 *
2015 only	dTp ↓ HPV ↓↓↓ Varicella ↓	dTp ↓	dTp ↓	dTp ↓
2016 onwards	dTp ↓ HPV ↓↓↓ Varicella ↓	-	-	-

↓ = number of doses

dTp = Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine

HPV = Human papillomavirus vaccine

Varicella = Chickenpox vaccine

*Or age equivalent

Communicating these changes to parents and students

A *Collection Statement* to be issued to all parents of students in Years 7 to 10 in the first week of Term One, 2015 is included in the *Implementation Kit*.

For additional promotion, the kit also contains:

- Half A4-page newsletter notice (jpeg format) to include in school newsletters/websites, and
- An article (word document) that can be adapted for schools' use.

These two resources, along with resources for teachers, parents and students about the secondary school vaccine program, can also be accessed online from immunehero.health.vic.gov.au