How Do I get the Vaccine?

A team of specially trained nurses will provide free vaccine in year 7 at your school.

1. The teacher will send home an information package with a consent form for you to read and sign.
2. Learn about HPV vaccine and make a decision together with your child.
3. Make sure the signed consent form is returned to school by the due date.
4. If you miss a dose of vaccine at school you can receive it when the nurses return to your school.

During year 7 your child will also have the opportunity to be protected against hepatitis B, chickenpox & whooping cough.
- Look out for the consent kits which will come home with your child
- Place the vaccination dates in your calendar
- Safely store the ‘record of vaccination’ which your child will bring home following vaccination. Please keep this record as it may be needed when your child leaves school for further education or employment.

Hunter New England Local Health District would like to thank Sydney South West Public Health Unit for developing the initial resource.
### What is HPV infection?

HPV or human papillomavirus is a highly contagious virus that causes a variety of infections and cancers including cervical cancer.

Around 80% of people are infected with at least one genital type of HPV at some stage in their life.

Many people will clear the virus without knowing they had it.

Abnormal cells are caused by infection with some types of HPV.

A small number of people will develop cancer because of it.

Infection with HPV can now be prevented by having a course of 3 doses of vaccine.

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### Why now?

**Now is the perfect time:**

- 12 and 13 year olds develop a stronger protective response from the vaccine when compared to older people.
- Only Year 7 students and (Yr 9 boys in 2013-14 as a catch-up) are offered free HPV vaccine. After Year 7 you will need to pay for the vaccine.
- Guards against the types of HPV that cause 70% of cervical cancers.
- The vaccine is most effective before having any sexual contact.
- The vaccine protects over the course of ones life.

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### Immunisation for Boys

The vaccine protects against two types of HPV which is known to cause genital warts and some cancers in men.

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### Is HPV vaccine safe?

Over 65 million doses of the vaccine have been given safely world-wide.

All medicines including vaccines can have side effects. As with other vaccines, the most common side effects caused by the HPV vaccine are dizziness, low grade fever, headache and soreness at the injection site.

Reduce the chance of common side effects by:

- Eating breakfast on the day of vaccination
- Drinking plenty of fluids
- Using your arm after the vaccination