Dear Parent/Guardian

Immunisation is the simplest and most effective means of protecting people against vaccine preventable diseases. NSW Health will be providing valuable primary and catch-up vaccinations for all yr 7 students in 2012.

Whilst in year 7, your child will be offered:

- Hepatitis B vaccines (2-dose course, administered 4-6 months apart)
  - Specifically offered as a catch-up to yr 7 students who have not previously received at least 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine in their childhood

- Chickenpox vaccine (single dose)
  - Specifically offered as a catch-up for yr 7 students who have not had chickenpox or been previously vaccinated with varicella vaccine.

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) (single dose)
  - This is a booster dose to ensure ongoing protection following primary vaccination in childhood.

- Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) (3-dose course)
  - This vaccine is only offered to yr 7 girls to provide protection from human papillomavirus infection which could lead to cervical cancer.

Parents/Guardians are advised to:

- Watch out for 2012 parent information and consent kits which will be sent home with your child from school.
- Be aware of the vaccination clinic dates at your child’s school and write the dates in your diary/calendar.
- Sign and return completed consent forms to the school as requested prior to the scheduled clinic day.
- Arrange an appointment with your local doctor to have your child vaccinated if your child is not vaccinated at school.
- Safely store your child’s ‘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.

Please note that the vaccine is only free of charge to year 7 students. Failure to commence vaccination whilst in year 7 will mean parents/guardians will be charged for the vaccines on a doctor’s prescription.

For more information about the NSW Health school immunisation program, log onto: