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## **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for year 8 students**

Dear parents/caregivers,

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

Prior to 2017 only females were eligible for the funded programme and males had to purchase these vaccines through their GP if they wished to be immunised. Since 2017 both males and females up to the age of 26, are eligible for the funded vaccines.

The vaccine protects against cancers which are caused by HPV viruses, as well as genital warts. The vaccine has been used for a number of years around the world, and is already showing excellent results in lowering the incidence of genital warts.

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 in pen and return it to the school as soon as possible. If you do not consent to the vaccination, please fill out the decline section of the consent form.

**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)
- [www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation](http://www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation)

Yours sincerely,

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