Nurses providing the free SA School Based Immunisation Program will be visiting your child’s school soon. It is important that you complete the Consent Card and return it to the school even if you DO NOT consent for the student to be vaccinated.

These vaccines are offered FREE through the SA School Based Immunisation Program to students in Year 8.

If you have any questions about this information, please either contact your school immunisation provider or include a note on the Consent Card.

Where can I get more information?

Immunisation Section, SA Health
Monday to Friday – 8.30am - 5.00pm
Phone 1300 232 272
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation

Immunise Australia website: www.immunise.health.gov.au/

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
www.ncirs.edu.au/

HPV School Vaccination Program

Contact your local school immunisation program provider.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)

HPV is a very common virus that affects both females and males. It is spread by sexual contact. It is so common that most people who are sexually active will have a genital HPV infection at some time in their lives. Most people do not experience any symptoms and do not know they have the infection. In most cases the virus will be cleared from the body naturally.

Complications
HPV infection can result in cancers of the genital area – penis, anus, vulva and vagina, and cancers of the throat and mouth in both males and females. In females HPV infection can also result in cervical cancer. HPV infection can also cause genital warts.

Gardasil® vaccine

Why do Year 8 students need the Gardasil vaccine?
- The HPV vaccine Gardasil protects against four HPV types. Two HPV types that cause 70% of cervical cancer and two HPV types that cause 90% of genital warts.
- Gardasil provides a high level of protection if given to students aged 12-13 years and before exposure to the HPV virus. However even if there has been exposure to the virus, the vaccine will still be beneficial as it is unlikely that infection with all HPV types covered by the vaccine has occurred.
- Gardasil does not protect against other HPV types which may cause cervical and other genital cancers, throat and mouth cancers and genital warts.

Three doses are offered at three separate visits over 6 months to all students in Year 8.

Is the vaccine safe?
Yes. The vaccine is very safe and millions of doses have been administered worldwide. However most vaccines can cause mild reactions and the side effects reported following Gardasil are generally minor and include pain, swelling and redness at the injection site, fever, headache, dizziness, nausea and vomiting. Severe reactions are very rare. If you need further information about the safety of vaccines, please contact the Immunisation Section – SA Health Monday to Friday 8.30am-5.00pm on 1300 232 272.

If my daughter has been vaccinated, does she still need a Pap smear?
Yes. The Gardasil vaccine protects against some types, but not all types of HPV that cause cervical cancer. For this reason regular Pap smears are still recommended for women. www.cervixscreening.sa.gov.au/

National HPV Vaccination Program Register

When you provide your Medicare number the vaccination details of the student will be sent to the HPV Register. The HPV Register will provide information on the vaccination status of the student. More information on the HPV Register is available at http://www.hpvregister.org.au/