

## Questions *Parents/Guardians* ask (and their answers!):

- 1. I've lost my child's vaccination records/Blue Book, what should I do?** You can access your child's immunisation records through the myGov website. You need to register with myGov first. The link below contains detailed instructions on how to register with myGov, add and view online Medicare Services, including your Immunisation History Statements:  
<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/set-mygov-access>
- 2. My child had diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine when they were aged 4, will he/she need the one offered at school?** Yes, this is a booster dose that all students need to receive, it used to be given in Year 10 or at 15 years of age, but due to the high number of adolescents developing whooping cough, the program has been moved to Year 7 students.
- 3. Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) is being given to boys and girls this year, why?** The vaccine used in Australia is called Gardasil 9. This vaccine is very effective in reducing the incidence of cervical cancers in women and genital warts in both men & women caused by an infection called Human Papillomavirus. This virus also causes cancers in other parts of the body, including the vulva, vagina, penis and anus. This infection is spread through sexual contact, so works best if 2 doses of the vaccine are given 6 months apart prior to the person becoming sexually active. If the course is started after the person turns 15 years of age they need 3 doses, so starting the course under the age of 15 years means less needles.
- 4. My child is in Year 8 and he/she missed out on getting his/her vaccines for HPV in Year 7, can he/she receive them this year?** If your child is in Year 8 and a consent form was not returned to the school you will need to take them to the GP for those vaccines. The vaccines are available for free on 'catch up', but the GP may charge a consultation fee. If you returned a signed consent form to the school and your child missed any of their Year 7 vaccines we will catch them up in Year 8.
- 5. I've heard that the HPV vaccine causes bad side effects – 'everyone faints', I'm worried about these side-effects on my child. How can they be prevented?** The HPV vaccine is generally well tolerated. Common side effects are mild and usually involve pain, swelling and redness at the injection site. Serious side effects are extremely rare. Fainting can occur after receiving any injection, and is a fear response to a situation. The nurses are very experienced in dealing with this situation and all students are observed for a short while following vaccination. You can assist your child by ensuring they have a good breakfast before leaving home and provide them with ample food and water to consume during the day. More information on the safety of vaccines, including the HPV vaccine is available via the AusVaxSafety website:  
<http://ausvaxsafety.org.au/safety-data>
- 6. My child is very nervous about having needles and the potential pain, I want him/her to use an Emla® patch or numbing cream, is that OK?** We are quite happy to accommodate this request. Ask your child to bring the patches on the morning of the clinic for the nurses to put on for your child 20 to 30 minutes before your child gets vaccinated. This way, the patches will be in the correct position and the nurses will be able to slot your child in at the correct time.
- 7. How will I know what vaccines my child has received?** All students are provided with a physical written record of vaccination to take home. This includes the date, time, and batch number of each vaccine given. Please retain this document for future reference. The vaccines will also be added to the Australian Immunisation Register and can be accessed via the online Medicare service as per the answer to question 1.

Please turn over

8. I would like more information about all these vaccinations, where can I look or who can I call?

**NSW Ministry of Health website:**

This website will provide information on all the vaccines given and also in 22 other languages.

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schoolvaccination.aspx>

**Cancer Institute NSW website:**

This is an excellent website for schools, parents and students to browse for information about HPV vaccination.

<https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/prevention-and-screening/screening-and-early-detection/cervical-screening/about-cervical-screening/what-is-the-hpv-vaccine>

**National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance [NCIRS] website:**

The fact sheets provide greater depth of information on HPV vaccine and other information on vaccines that parents may require.

<http://www.ncirs.org.au/health-professionals/ncirs-fact-sheets-faqs>

**AusVaxSafety:**

AusVaxSafety is an active vaccine safety surveillance system that monitors the safety of vaccines in Australia using de-identified data reported directly from people receiving the vaccines (or their parent or carer).

<http://ausvaxsafety.org.au/safety-data>

**Nepean Public Health Unit:**

<https://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health-unit/immunisation>