2026 Year 7

School Immunisation Program

What is human papillomavirus (HPV)?

About HPV

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus (type of germ) that can infect both females and males. It is passed on through skin-to-skin contact, most commonly through sexual activity.

Most people don't know they have the HPV germ in their body or if they've passed it to someone else.

Some infections stay in the body and can lead to some cancers.

9 out of 10 people will catch the germ some time in their life

HPV can cause:

- cancers of the penis, anus, vulva, vagina, cervix, throat and mouth.
- genital warts. This is a sexual infection (sickness) that creates bumps on the genital area.

The HPV vaccine:

1 vaccine given to Year 7 students.

This protects students from most types of HPV that cause infection.

The vaccine works best if students get it before they have contact with the HPV germ.

The vaccine can still protect students if they've had contact with the germ because it will help to protect against other types of HPV germs.

When you've had the HPV vaccine, you might:

have a sore, red or swollen arm where the needle was given

have a headache

have sore muscles

get a temperature

feel sick

feel dizzy or tired

For more information

Immunisation Section
Communicable Disease Control Branch
sahealth.sa.gov.au/SIP

Interpreter

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2026 Year 7

School Immunisation Program

What is diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (pertussis)?

About diphtheria

Diphtheria is a very bad sickness of the throat and nose. 1 in 6 people with this sickness will die.

Diphtheria can:

- make it hard to breathe
- give you a bad heart
- make your arms and legs weak

About tetanus

Tetanus is a germ found in dirt, dust and animal poo. It can be passed on by getting the germs into a cut or sore.

You can't catch it from someone else. 2 in 100 people who get tetanus will die.

Tetanus can:

- give you a bad heart
- put blood in your lungs
- make your lungs sick
- kill you

About whooping cough (pertussis)

Whooping cough is a lung infection (sickness) that you can get if someone who has the germ coughs or sneezes near you.

About 9 out of 10 people living with a person with whooping cough will catch it if they aren't vaccinated or were vaccinated a long time ago.

Whooping cough can:

- break your ribs from coughing
- make your lungs sick
- damage your brain
- make you cough for up to 3 months

Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (dTpa) vaccine

1 vaccine given to Year 7 students as a booster dose

When you've had the dTpa vaccine, you might:

- have a sore, red or swollen arm where the needle was given
- have a headache
- have sore muscles
- get a temperature
- feel sick
- feel dizzy or tired

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