

Dear Parent, Please read the following information carefully.

IMMUNISATION HEALTH INFORMATION 2017 FOR PARENTS

In previous years (since 2007) Queensland Health has facilitated an efficient, cost-effective, and convenient immunisation of secondary students during the school day through temporary clinics set up at the school. Parents are provided dates and details of the specific days ahead of time.

In 2017 all Year 7 students have the opportunity to be vaccinated at school clinics for the:

- a. Human Papillomavirus (3 doses at intervals of 0, 2 and 6 months)
- b. Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough (Pertussis) (one booster dose)

Consent/Non-Consent Cards have always been sent home and only those students with returned cards have been eligible for the vaccinations.

All returned Cards were forwarded to the immunisation providers to allow them to plan for their visits.

Of course, as you can appreciate, some of these cards never made it home and some parents therefore missed the opportunity for immunisation of their children at school.

Up until now (2017) those parents/students who did not return the Consent/Do Not Consent Cards could not be followed up to confirm whether they did in fact want the school-based vaccinations as offered for their children.

However following amendments to the Health Act in 2016 (commencing in January 2017) the Principal/Delegate of the school is now legally required to provide a **Master List** with information of all 2017 Year 7 enrolled students to the Immunisation Provider. This will enable the Provider (not the school) to check off who has not returned the cards.

Those parents will be contacted to give them a further opportunity (in some cases the first opportunity) to state whether they consent or do not consent to their child being part of the school-based program.

We expect to be able to provide you with Consent/Do Not Consent cards and Information Booklets at the end of January. They will contain the date by which you are requested to return the Cards.

If you have any objection to these new requirements please contact the Health Department as the proper authority to address concerns.

If you are concerned that this new requirement will negatively affect the safety of your Year 7 child, please contact **the school** staff-member delegated to be the Immunisation Liaison Officer.

Contact the *Immunisation liaison staff member* in the first instance and schedule a meeting.

In exceptional circumstances, including where the child's safety could be an issue, the Principal can exercise discretion. However, except in such exceptional circumstances the Principal has no choice but to fulfil the mandatory requirements of the new laws.

Yours sincerely.

Principal