



Department of Health and Human Services

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Dear Principal

I am writing to request your continued support for the secondary school immunisation program. As a vital public health function, it is important that the program continues to be delivered in Term 4 with suitable precautions taken to minimise COVID-19 risk to those delivering and attending immunisation sessions.

Each school and local council immunisation service provider will be at a different stage in their progress through delivering the yearly program; if students at your school are yet to receive the important vaccines due in Year 7 and Year 10, delivery of the program should continue.

Specifically, I ask that your school immunisation coordinator continues to:

- enable delivery of remaining due vaccinations to Year 7 and 10 students
- liaise with your local council immunisation service to determine the best and safest way to deliver these vaccines to students, with the goal of maximising participation
- facilitate communication and promotion of the program with students and their parents/guardians, including immunisation session dates, times and the necessary consent and information documents.

As you will be aware, students in Year 7 should receive the Human papillomavirus (HPV) and, Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (Whooping cough) vaccines, and students in Year 10 should receive the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

The peak season for meningococcal infection is now upon us. Delaying delivery of due vaccinations is not advisable and we do not want to increase other public health risks while responding to COVID-19.

The Department of Health and Human Services has provided guidance to immunisation service providers to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission to staff and people receiving immunisation services. This includes reference to a range of protective measures, such as use of personal protective equipment, increased hygiene and social distancing requirements.

Should you have concerns or queries regarding the delivery of the secondary school vaccination program please contact your local council immunisation service in the first instance. I am enormously

grateful for your support in this critical public health function and your continued efforts to protect students and staff during this time of COVID-19 risk.

Yours sincerely

SIGNATURE SUPPLIED

Dr Annaliese van Diemen

Deputy Chief Health Officer, Communicable Disease
Regulation, Health Protection and Emergency Management

13/10/2020