



HPV (Gardasil)

vaccine now also for boys and young men

WHAT?

The HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine is recommended for children aged 11-12 years though it is available free for anyone aged between nine and 26 years. For the first time, the vaccine will also be offered to boys/young men this year. Children who are in Year 8 at school are offered the vaccine either through a school-based immunisation programme, or through their family doctor if a school programme is not available.

Only two doses of the vaccine will be required if given before 15 years, but three doses will be needed after that time (and must be given before turning 27). This is because the vaccine provides better immunity if given before 15. The best age to receive the vaccine is between 11-12 years.

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I urge parents to take up this free opportunity to protect your children now, by agreeing to the vaccination course when receiving the permission slip from school. If you would prefer to have it provided by the GP, I would suggest taking that approach as soon as possible.

-Dr Rob Weir

MidCentral Medical Officer of Health

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WHY?

Vaccinating young people helps protect against almost all genital warts and other HPV-related cancers including cervical, anal, oropharyngeal, vaginal, vulval and penile cancers.

Based on recent data, over 240 cancers and almost 2000 pre-cancers requiring surgical treatment are potentially preventable each year in New Zealand via HPV vaccination.

MORE...

More information is available from:

Immunisation Advisory Centre www.immune.org.nz | Ministry of Health www.health.govt.nz/hpv

You can also discuss it with your school's public health nurse.

Let's ensure we prevent these cancers by receiving the HPV (Gardasil) vaccine.