**Year 7 School Based Immunisation Program 2024**

Dear parents/guardians,

The Health Department has advised that the date for immunisations will be on: **August 13 & 14, 2024 (depending on your child’s faction)**. The program administers the following vaccinations in 1 visit-

1. **1 adolescent booster dose of dTpa vaccine (Boostrix brand)** protecting against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. (3 in 1)

**Diphtheria** is a serious bacterial disease that causes a thick grey coating in the back of the nose or throat that makes it hard to breathe or swallow. Tetanus is an acute, often fatal disease, caused by a toxin (poison) produced by the Clostridium tetani bacteria that penetrate the skin following an injury.

**Tetanus** bacteria is commonly found in soil. Some examples of how the infection may happen include: a prick from a rose thorn, scratch from a rusty nail or a dog bite.

**Whooping cough** is a highly infectious disease that can be a life threatening for babies and young children if infected children and grown-ups pass it on. It usually starts with cold-like symptoms and a cough that worsens into uncontrollable coughing. Whooping cough infection in babies is life threatening and may cause them to be extremely ill, and, in some cases, lead to death. Older children and adults can also become infected with whooping cough and, while their symptoms are usually less severe, they can pass the infection to others, including infants too young to be immunised.

1. **1 dose of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine (Gardasil 9 brand)** protecting against 9 strains of HPV.

**HPV** **infection** is highly contagious. It may infect different parts of the body causing warts but around 50 types can infect the genitals including the cervix. In most of us, the infection is invisible & harmless, and goes away after a few months without causing any problems. Some strains are nasty, and may cause variety of soft tissue cancers, including cervical, testicular, throat & anal cancer.

**R If you wish your child to be vaccinated, YOU MUST PROVIDE CONSENT.**

**How?** - Simply scan the QR code from your mobile phone to provide a digital consent:

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**If you prefer the paper consent form:**  download, print and complete the form from **Healthy WA Website** by clicking this link: [School-based immunisation program (healthywa.wa.gov.au)](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/S_T/School-based-immunisation-program) *You must complete the form with all health questionnaires answered and signatures provided on the appropriate space. Please submit this to the school coordinator immediately.*

**Q If you do not wish your child to receive immunisations at school, you must notify us of this decision in writing: by signing beside the NO consent option or choosing “I do not consent” on Vaccinate WA (if online).**  The health department requires this information and prevents you from having unwelcome reminder notices.

The school based immunisation program is not compulsory, but advisable.  If you have any questions regarding immunisation, please contact CAHS.CHSBIP@health.wa.gov.au or call 08 9391 2279.