Dear Year 7 Principals,

CHANGES TO THE 2013 SCHOOL-BASED IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

The Department of Health would like to thank you for all your support and cooperation given over the years to implement the Year 7 school based immunisation program.

The Commonwealth Government is offering all boys in years 7, 8 and 9 HPV vaccines through the school based program in 2013. This initiative in conjunction with the Department of Education’s plan to move Year 7 from primary to high schools in 2015 has led to the decision by the Department of Health WA to move the Year 7 school-based vaccination program to Year 8. High schools in 2013. This move follows consultation with the Education Department and allows for better use of staff resources and economy of scale to capture and immunise a larger number of students at a given time.

Given that all Year 8 students will have previously received the routine vaccines in Year 7 in 2012 the standard program will not run in 2013. Instead, in its place a school-based Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination program will be offered to boys in Year 8, with a catch up program for boys in Year 9 and 10.

The routine school-based immunisation program will re-commence in 2014 in Year 8 for both female and male students. The parents of students enrolled in Year 7 in 2013 will need to be advised that their child will receive their school-based vaccinations in Year 8 in 2014. No students will miss out on the opportunity to receive their school-based vaccinations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your support for this very important health program.

Kind regards

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