

**Supporting systems and
process strategies to
improve HPV immunisation
in the school-based
immunisation program**

**research
prevention
support**

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CCV project 2011-2014

Aims

- To increase the uptake of HPV vaccine amongst Year 7 students in areas of low HPV immunisation coverage
- To fill the HPV immunisation information void for students, parents, schools and health professionals

Victoria's Cancer Action Plan (2008-2011)

- To increase the immunisation rate against HPV for cervical cancer to 75% for Year 7 secondary school girls by 2011

Contextual mapping

Victorian status

- Victorian school program coverage for girls 12-13 years ¹
83% / 79% / 72% Dose 1/2/3
- Half of Councils were below 75% coverage (Range 43-100%)
- 77 local government areas, ~815 secondary schools, ~33,000 female Yr. 7 students

Gaps

- Lack of knowledge of state and local HPV immunisation coverage rates
- No formal linkages between health and education sectors in Victoria
- Lack of previous focus, national framework or published research for adolescent immunisation

1. National HPV Vaccination Program Register, 2011

Barriers: it's a logistical nightmare!

System issues

- Lack of relationships
- Lack of knowledge

Process issues

- Under resourced before and after immunisation day activities
- Lack of accurate and consistent HPV immunisation data

Enablers: cancer prevention

- Local engagement and barrier identification
- Development of effective, appropriate strategies
- Multiple strategies applied to all school-based vaccines
- CCV resources www.hpvvaccine.org.au

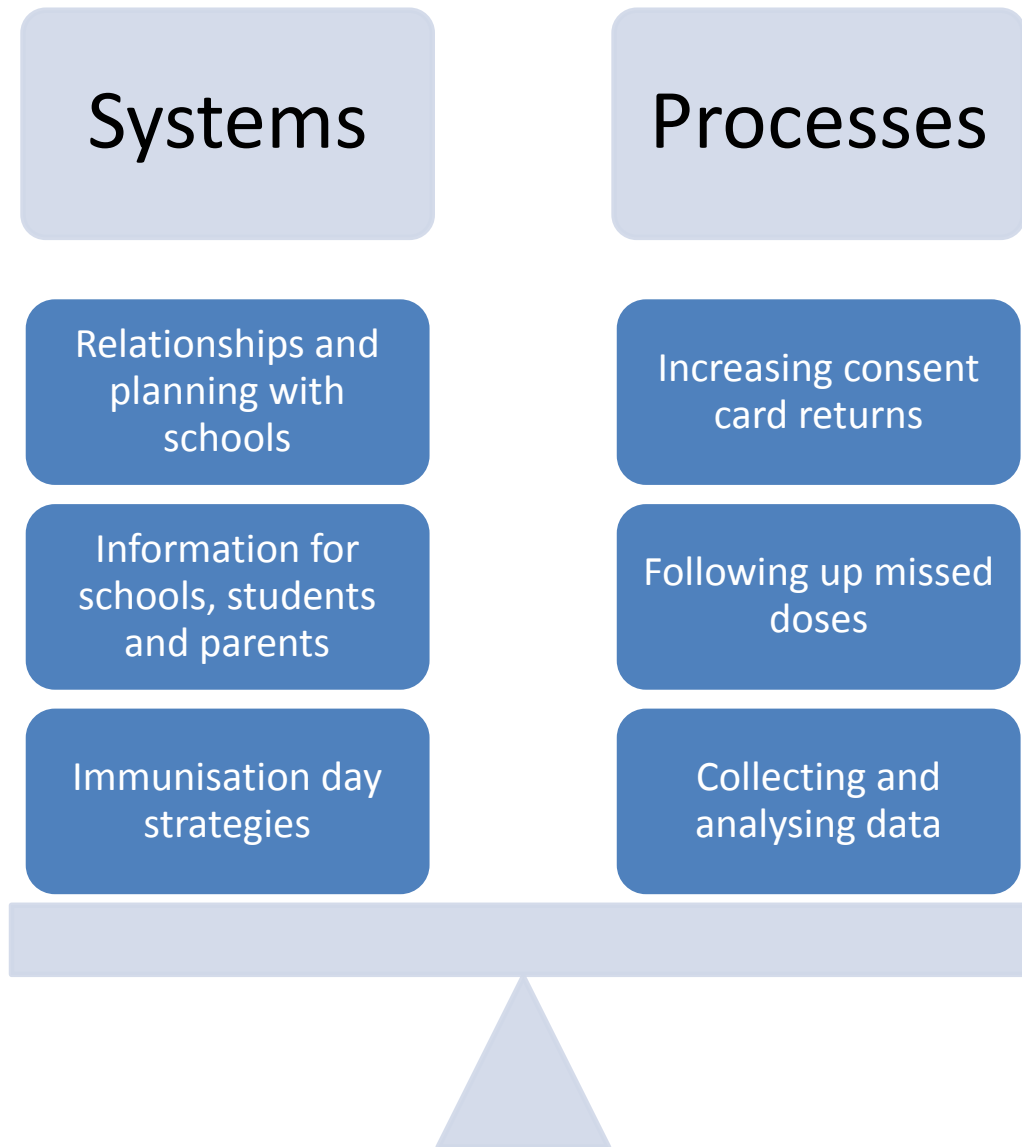


All three vaccine doses are required for best protection against cervical cancer.

Visit the website for details:
www.cervicalcancervaccine.org.au



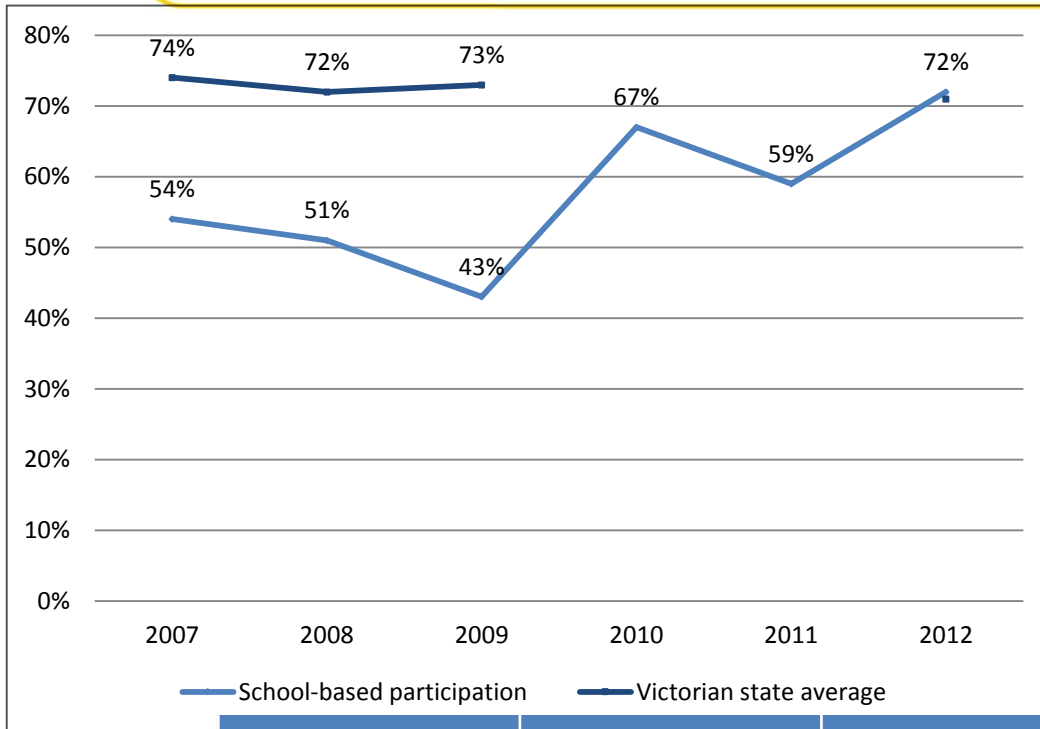
Effective pilot strategies



Unsuccessful pilot strategies

- Encouraging schools to allow HPV immunisation
- Offering pre-immunisation day education
- Capturing broader health promotion opportunities
- Implementing local media initiatives

Outcomes



	Total	%
No. of Yr. 7 girls enrolled	1627	-
No. of consent cards returned 'YES'	1119	69%
No. of consent cards returned 'NO'	145	9%
No. of consent cards not returned	363	22%

School Based Immunisation Program 2013



School Immunisation Session Guidelines – Elwood Secondary College

The Immunisation Team at the City of Port Phillip aim to deliver an immunisation service to your school that will be effective in terms of time management with minimal interruption to teachers and students. It will also ensure the experience is as comfortable as possible for students.

To ensure a successful program we ask that you follow the suggestions outlined in this guideline.

Your Schedule 2013

Term 1 <Insert Date>	Year 7 Girls and Boys Year 9 Boys Year 10 Girls and Boys	HPV Dose 1 & Chickenpox HPV Dose 1 Boostrix	Arrival Time: <Time> Immunise Time: <Time>
Term 2 <Insert Date>	Year 7 Girls and Boys	HPV Dose 2	Arrival Time: <Time>
Term 3 <Insert Date>			

* A catch up program will be offered for students who require catch up prior to the start of the program.

With this Guideline

With this Guideline we have prepared envelopes for you to pack to the students as soon as possible. Each envelope will contain a card which includes information about the vaccine and a perforated section which is to be returned to the school.

Purple Envelope – Year 7 Girls
Blue Envelope – Year 9 Boys
Green Envelope – Year 10 Girls

Please note that all consent cards must be returned to the school by the parent/guardian/student.

We will collect the completed consent cards from the teachers and return them to the school.

Cervical cancer vaccine

Myths and facts about HPV and the vaccine

- MYTH:** Only young women who have multiple sexual partners get HPV.
- FACT:** You can be infected with HPV from one sexual partner, the first time you are sexually active.
- MYTH:** Having the vaccine at a young age leads to promiscuity.
- FACT:** There is no evidence that girls who receive the vaccine have sex earlier than those who do not have the vaccine, and nor do they have more sexual partners once they become sexually active. Being vaccinated in school is now a normal part of growing up and the vast majority of girls are vaccinated.

- MYTH:** The vaccine wasn't properly tested, hasn't been proven to prevent cervical cancer, and wasn't tested on young girls.
- FACT:** In trials, the vaccine was given to 20,000 women aged 16–26 years in 33 countries including Australia, before it was approved for widespread use.

The trials did not seek to prove that the vaccine prevents cervical cancer. This is because it was not ethical to allow cervical cancer to develop in the group who did not receive the vaccine in the trials (the placebo or control group).

However trials showed that the vaccine is almost 100% effective in preventing abnormalities in cells in the cervix caused by high-risk HPV types 16 and 18. These abnormalities are a proven pre-cursor to cervical cancer.

For ethical reasons, younger girls were not included in the trials as they would have been required to have regular Pap tests, which would have been inappropriate given their age.

Instead, studies compared the body's immune response to the vaccine between younger and older girls. It was determined that younger girls who received the vaccine in these studies:

- Experienced no increased adverse reactions to the vaccine compared to older girls
- Created more antibodies in response to the vaccine than older girls, meaning we can expect them to be better protected against HPV

The vaccine can reduce the risk of developing cervical cancer. Visit cervicalcancer.vaccine.org.au or call 1800 671 811 to find out more.



In summary

- Focus on system and process improvements
- Implement multi-component intervention strategies
- Barrier identification utilised in state-wide immunisation initiatives for school immunisation
- Health and education sectors need to work together
- Promote the early success of the HPV vaccine
- Increasing school HPV immunisation rates now will decrease cancer incidence and mortality in the future
- Resources are available at www.hpvvaccine.org.au

Acknowledgements

- Victorian Immunisation Service Providers
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- HPV School-Based Immunisation Program Advisory Group
- Cancer Council Victoria staff

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