

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine information for parents/guardians

From February 2023, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) dosing schedule for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will change from two doses to a **single dose** for most people.

What is the HPV vaccine?

The Gardasil®9 vaccine protects against HPV infection, which is a common viral infection, usually affecting the genitals and spread through sexual contact. The vaccine is most effective when given before exposure to the virus, that is before a person becomes sexually active. More information about HPV and the HPV vaccine can be found [on the Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation).

<<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation>>

How has the HPV vaccine schedule changed?

From February 2023, the recommended HPV vaccine schedule for most people has **changed from two-doses to a single dose** course using the same Gardasil®9 vaccine. There is no change to the amount of vaccine that is given in the single dose.

The schedule **has not changed for immunocompromised people**, and they may still need to receive three doses of HPV vaccine which are all funded under the NIP.

Why was this change made?

The change is based on advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), who have considered and reviewed the latest international clinical evidence. ATAGI support the large volume of clinical findings that a single dose of HPV vaccine provides about the same protection as two doses of HPV vaccine.

What do you need to do?

Your council immunisation service will seek your consent for vaccinations delivered at school as usual.

If you would like to discuss the change or clarify any information about the HPV vaccine please contact your local council.

Further information

[Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation): <<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation>>

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