

# NSW School Vaccination Program

## Additional measures to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission in school vaccination clinics

### Background

- Providing vaccinations at school for human papillomavirus (HPV), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) and meningococcal ACWY protects the individual student and the broader community against these serious preventable diseases
- A study by the National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance (NCIRS) found: no evidence that students transmit COVID-19 to adults; and that disease transmission in NSW schools has been very limited (<http://ncirs.org.au/covid-19-in-schools>)
- School vaccination clinics should only proceed where PHUs have capacity and schools are supportive and have students and staff in attendance
- NSW Health is implementing the following additional measures relating to hand hygiene, screening, environmental cleaning and physical distancing based on expert clinical advice to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission in the school setting and provide confidence to parents, schools and the broader community<sup>1</sup>

Issue	Implementation & Risk Mitigation	Authority
Transportation to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-touch surfaces in vaccination vehicle/s should be cleaned down at start of day, including all door handles &amp; internals (see Appendix 1)</li> <li>• Detergent/disinfectant wipes &amp; hand sanitiser should be placed in each vehicle</li> <li>• A maximum of 2 people should travel in a 5-seat vehicle with a driver &amp; passenger behind the front passenger seat</li> <li>• During travel, the vehicle's air conditioner should be set to 'external airflow' &amp; not 'recirculation' as an added precaution</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Advice on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools (AHPPC)</a> <a href="#">Safe Work Australia</a> <a href="#">Environmental cleaning &amp; disinfection for COVID-19 (Aust Department of Health)</a>
PHU staff screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff should check their own temperature before leaving home, where possible. Staff feeling unwell must not attend work</li> <li>• Staff should meet in school car park where all should be screened by the team leader, including temperatures taken &amp; results recorded in the School Clinic Summary Sheet</li> <li>• Staff should perform hand hygiene before entering the school</li> <li>• All staff should maintain 1.5m physical distancing throughout the day where possible</li> </ul>	<a href="#">NSW Government advice</a> <a href="#">2020 Protocols</a>

<sup>1</sup> Health Protection NSW acknowledges Western Sydney LHD's draft *COVID-19 Infection Control Processes* which formed the basis for the development of this document

Signing into the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff should ensure 1.5m physical distancing while queuing to sign in</li> </ul>	<a href="#">NSW Government advice</a>
Clinic scheduling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinics should be scheduled to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ support minimum dosing intervals between HPV dose 1 &amp; 2 (at least 6 months), noting that clinics can be scheduled any time in 2020 (including into December) &amp; that catch-up vaccination can be offered into Year 8 (for HPV &amp; dTpa) &amp; Year 11 (for meningococcal ACWY) in 2021</li> <li>○ support clinic operations that are consistent with physical distancing restrictions (see 'Clinic space' below)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<a href="#">2020 Protocols</a> <a href="#">Australian Immunisation Handbook</a> <a href="#">NSW Government advice</a>
Clinic space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The clinic space should be large enough to support physical distancing restrictions, including separate entry &amp; exit points, an average of at least 4 square metres of space for each person &amp; a maximum of 100 people in the space at any one time</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering &amp; Movement) Order 2020 (Part 5, Section 8(1)(b) and (c))</a>
Clinic set-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The presentation of students should be managed to support physical distancing restrictions &amp; reduce crowding i.e. staggering arrival times by class</li> <li>• Surgical face masks should be available for any student who advises they are unwell within the clinic so they can be isolated</li> <li>• At the clinic entrance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a tape measure &amp; masking tape should be used to plot out 1.5m separation between students</li> <li>○ a staff member from the PHU or school should be designated to <b>direct student flow &amp; screen students</b> by asking if they're feeling well (temperatures do not need to be taken) &amp; any student who advises that they are feeling unwell must not enter the clinic &amp; be advised to attend student reception or the school nurse as appropriate (<i>Note: Schools should already have advised students not to attend school if they are feeling unwell &amp; nurses should also routinely ask students if they're feeling well as part of the pre-vaccination check</i>)</li> <li>○ signage should be available to <a href="#">promote physical distancing</a> &amp; an A3 'Student Advice Card' (<a href="#">Appendix G in 2020 Protocols</a>) should be printed as an A3 information poster &amp; displayed in a prominent position for students to read while they wait in line</li> <li>○ hand sanitiser should be available for students &amp; staff in attendance (<i>Note: schools have been supplied with hand sanitiser</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Students can be asked to stand for vaccination (to reduce the potential for surface contamination) or sit where preferred or warranted i.e. students with a history of vasovagal episodes (<i>Note: a chair &amp; gym mat should be available close by if necessary</i>)</li> <li>• A tape measure &amp; masking tape should be used to plot out 1.5m separation between desks &amp; between nurse &amp; student, where possible</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Advice on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools (AHPPC)</a> <a href="#">NSW Government advice</a> <a href="#">2020 Protocols</a> <a href="#">Keeping your distance poster (Aust Department of Health)</a>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration should be given to strategies to reduce unnecessary handling of Consent Forms</li> <li>• All furniture should be cleaned with detergent/disinfectant wipes using gloves before &amp; after the clinic</li> <li>• A surgical face mask and hand sanitizer for staff should be available on all desks</li> <li>• Equipment (i.e. pens) should not be shared between staff members &amp; the team leader should use detergent/disinfectant wipes to clean laptop down before &amp; after use (one user only per laptop), where relevant</li> <li>• Distraction tools should not be provided to students to minimise the risk of infection</li> </ul>	
Wearing of surgical face masks or gloves by staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the move from a moderate risk level (Amber) to a low risk level (Green) from 18 November 2020, it is not necessary for nurses to wear a surgical mask while delivering the school vaccination program. The wearing of gloves is not recommended.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">COVID-19 Infection Prevention &amp; Control – Response &amp; Escalation Framework (Clinical Excellence Commission)</a>
Preparing vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccines should be prepared in small groups, with a maximum of two nurses per table &amp; in line with the 1.5m physical distancing restrictions</li> <li>• The cold chain must be maintained at all times</li> </ul>	<a href="#">2020 Protocols</a>
Consent processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/guardians must provide written consent on an original Consent Form for vaccination to take place. However, verbal consent can be accepted where faxed/photocopied/emailed Consent Forms have been received &amp; the parent/guardian has confirmed receipt &amp; reading of the Parent Information Kit as outlined in the 2020 Protocols. A copy of the fax/photocopy/email should be attached to a current Consent Form.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">2020 Protocols</a>
Student encounter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students should be directed to the authorised nurse immuniser by a designated staff member from the PHU or school at the clinic entrance</li> <li>• The nurse should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ position themselves at a minimum of 1.5m from the student during the pre-vaccination assessment</li> <li>○ perform hand hygiene</li> <li>○ prepare the vaccine/s at their work station</li> <li>○ approach the student</li> <li>○ administer the vaccine</li> <li>○ perform hand hygiene</li> <li>○ complete Consent Form &amp; Record of Vaccination &amp; provide student with Record of Vaccination &amp; post-vaccination advice</li> <li>○ instruct student to move to the post-vaccination observation area with 1.5m distancing between students</li> <li>○ practice hand hygiene before next student</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<a href="#">Advice on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools (AHPPC)</a>

Observation post-vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be sufficient space available for students to be observed for 15 minutes post-vaccination while following physical distancing requirements OR at least 5 minutes post-vaccination where adequate physical distancing is not possible (see <a href="#">ATAGI advice</a>)</li> <li>• A staff member from the PHU or school should be designated to monitor students post-vaccination</li> <li>• In the event of an adverse event following immunisation (AEFI), the usual Protocols should be followed, including administering adrenaline for the treatment of anaphylaxis</li> <li>• If CPR is required, use a resuscitation mask with a one-way valve. Alternatively if there are concerns about COVID-19 transmission, perform chest compressions only, wearing a surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>• School staff should be given clinic mobile number should any students require clinical attendance after vaccination</li> </ul>	<a href="#">2020 Protocols</a>  <a href="#">Statement on duration of observation post-vaccination (ATAGI)</a>
Packing up equipment & leaving school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A staff member should wipe down: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ furniture in the clinic space, and</li> <li>○ equipment before loading into the vehicle &amp; practicing hand hygiene</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Team leader must check the clinic vicinity &amp; school sick bay at the end of the clinic to identify any students requiring medical attention</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Advice on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools (AHPPC)</a>
Transport back to Rubbish & PHU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All clinical &amp; general waste must be removed &amp; disposed of consistent with <a href="#">NSW Health policy &amp; hand hygiene</a></li> <li>• Equipment should be removed from the vehicle &amp; the vehicle wiped down consistent with Appendix 1.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">2020 Protocols</a>  <a href="#">PD2017_026 Clinical &amp; Related Waste Management for Health Services</a>

## Appendix 1: Environmental Cleaning of Vehicles

Detergent/disinfectant wipes & hand sanitiser should always be available in each vehicle. It is important to keep fleet vehicles clean & sanitised between users by cleaning 'high touch' surfaces before & after each use using detergent/disinfectant wipes. These 'high touch' surfaces include but are not limited to the following:

- Steering wheel
- Blinker & wiper stalks
- Gear stick (shifter)
- Emergency brake handle
- Seat belt buckle & clasp
- Touch screen/centre console
- Door handle (**interior & exterior**)
- Door handle window control cluster
- Keys and fuel card
- Document binder/box/holder/clipboard



Once the vehicle has been wiped down, the used wipes should be disposed of in the general waste bag– do not leave in the vehicle.

Reference: [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/office/physical-distancing](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/office/physical-distancing)