

School immunisation program coverage, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, 2008 to 2020

1. Introduction

NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer vaccines recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in a school-based vaccination program.

This report provides an overview of the latest school immunisation coverage for students attending school-based vaccination programs within the boundaries of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, based on immunisation encounters for students reported by school immunisation nurses.

It summarises the percentage of students reported as receiving vaccines as a proportion of all students enrolled in the relevant year level. Information is provided for students attending schools located in South Eastern Sydney by vaccine, dose and year, compared to the NSW state average.

It is important to note that the coverage rates may underestimate the true vaccination coverage as they represent only those vaccinations received through the school program and do not include doses received from general practitioners or other immunisation providers.

Up to date information on the vaccines on offer at NSW high schools is available at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schoolvaccination.aspx>.

Due to COVID-19 there was some disruption in the program in 2020; some of the schools were not able to be offered dose 2 of the HPV vaccine in 2020. These students will be vaccinated in 2021.

2020 Summary for students attending schools located in South Eastern Sydney LHD:

- 86% of year 7 students received the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine.
- 79% of year 10 students received the meningococcal ACWY vaccine
- 85% of female year 7 students received the first dose of the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine; 74% received dose 2.
- 85% of male year 7 students received the first dose of the HPV vaccine; 70% received dose 2.

2020 students will be offered the opportunity to complete their HPV course or receive dTpa or meningococcal ACWY vaccine at school clinics in 2021, so this coverage is expected to increase.

2. HPV vaccine: Protection against human papillomavirus

In 2017, the schedule changed from 3 doses to 2 doses as international studies show that a two-dose schedule of any HPV vaccine, given to individuals aged 9-14 years of age with a 6 month interval gives equivalent protection to a three-dose course of vaccine.

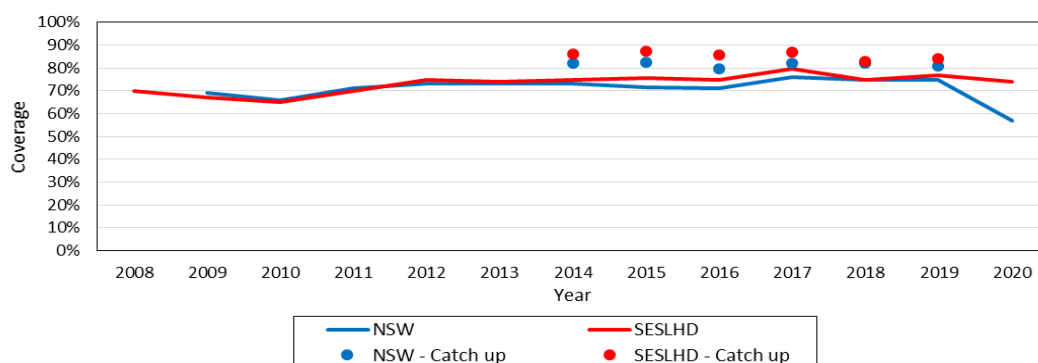
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/HPV-vaccination.aspx#ref1>.

Due to COVID-19 we were not able to offer dose 2 in some schools in 2020. Coverage is expected to increase in 2021 as we will offer catch-up in all schools.

A. Female students

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination has been routinely offered to year 7 girls since 2008. In 2020, 85% of the 5,063 female year 7 students in District schools received dose 1 of the HPV vaccine, 3% lower than in 2019; 74% received dose 2 in 2020, down by 3% compared to 2019. Coverage in this cohort is above the state average for dose 1 and dose 2 (NSW dose 1: 82%, dose 2: 57%). Students who started the HPV program in 2019 but missed dose 2 were offered catch-up vaccination when their schools were re-visited in the 2020 school year. This increased dose 2 coverage by 7% to 84%, for the 4,815 girls enrolled in year 7 in 2019.

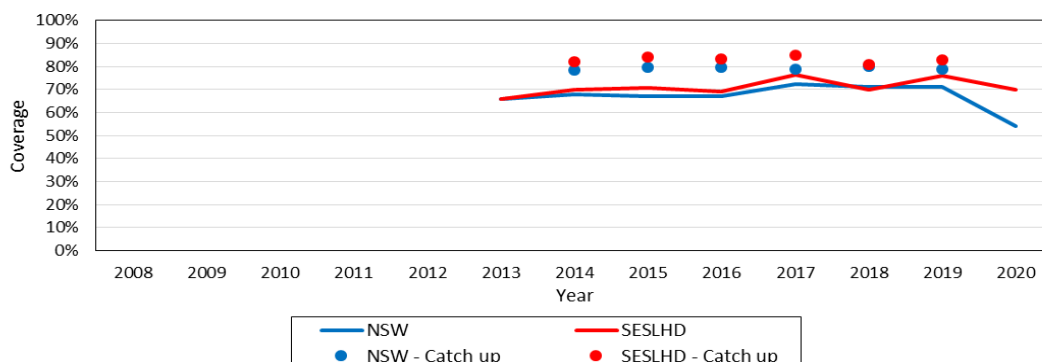
HPV vaccine course completion among girls, SESLHD, 2008 to date



B. Male students

HPV vaccination has been routinely offered to year 7 boys since 2013. In 2020, 85% of the 5,134 male year 7 students in District schools received Dose 1 of the HPV vaccine, up by 1% compared to 2019; 70% received dose 2 in 2020, down from 76% in 2019. Coverage in this cohort is above the state average for dose 1 and dose 2 (NSW dose 1: 79%, dose 2: 54%). Students who started the HPV program in 2019 but missed dose 2 were offered catch-up vaccination when their schools were re-visited in the 2020 school year. This increased dose 2 coverage by 7% to 83%, for the 4,962 boys enrolled in year 7 in 2019.

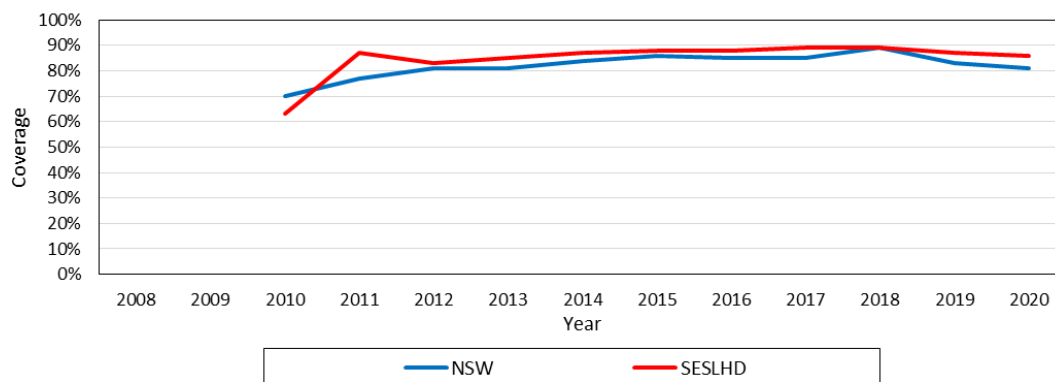
HPV vaccine course completion among boys, SESLHD, 2013 to date



3. dTpa vaccine: Protection against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis

Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (whooping cough) (dTpa) booster vaccination has been routinely offered to students in year 7 since 2010. In 2020, 86% of the 10,197 year 7 students in District schools received the dTpa vaccine, down by 1% compared to 2019. This fall occurred for NSW as a whole and SESLHD Coverage in this cohort remain above the state average level of 81%.

dTpa vaccine coverage among year 7 students, SESLHD, 2010 to date



5. Meningococcal vaccine: protection against meningococcus: A, C, W, and Y

The NSW Meningococcal W Response Program started in 2017 in response to a rapid increase in cases of meningococcal W disease in the community, especially among young adults; it is offering a single dose of meningococcal ACWY vaccine to older adolescents as part of the NSW School-based Vaccination Program. In 2017 the vaccine was offered to years 11 and 12. In 2018, this changed to years 10 and 11. From 2019, the vaccine was offered to year 10 students through the school program; however, adolescents up to 19 years of age are eligible to be vaccinated by their general practitioner. In 2020, 79% of the 9,727 Year 10 students in District schools received the meningococcal ACWY vaccine, the same as in 2019. Coverage in this cohort remains above the state average of 75%.

Meningococcal vaccine coverage among year 10, 11 and 12 students, SESLHD, 2017-2019

