

Please note – This is an extract from a student’s response for one of three articles

The article is the Ministry of Health’s School consent form: *‘HPV Vaccine (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine) A vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer.’*

3 This article was written by the NZ Ministry of Health.

The purpose is to give information about the HPV virus to the general public. The information is about the HPV virus and receiving the vaccine Gardasil.

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One biology feature is, *“Cervical Cancer develops when HPV infections don't clear and cause abnormal cells to grow on the cervix.”*

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This is true, because when someone has sex with someone who has the HPV, the virus gets into the reproductive system. If this process is allowed to continue over a long period of time, this can lead to a cancer in the cervix etc.

1 The HPV virus goes through different stages. Sometimes, only a few cells are changed and sometimes they clear up on their own. This can be checked in a regular Smear or Pap test.

Another biological feature is, *“The vaccine causes the immune system to produce its own protection against four HPV types.”*

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This is also true because the Gardasil vaccine is a weakened vaccine. The antigen in the vaccine is the protein of HPV. These proteins change into low risk virus-like particles. That means that it has antigens in it that causes the immune system to make antibodies.

2 The vested interest of this form is the Ministry of Health. Because it is free, they want to help protect these girls from getting an HPV infection that could lead to cancers.

There are two sides to every story when using Gardasil. Articles that show the true facts are the best, even when they talk about side effects.

Sometimes the information is too hard for people to understand because of the science words. The best ones have simple diagrams to show how the vaccine works.

The consent form is very complicated in parts and the parents would need to read up on more sides of the issue before making any decisions.

I think the Ministry of Health should make the vaccine available to more than one year level at school just in case children were not vaccinated when they were in year 8. If they made it available to both year 8 and 9 and maybe even year 10 it would be much safer for everyone.