

August 2017

**Re: Expanded Eligibility for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination**

Dear Health Care Provider,

On September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, BC will expand its publicly funded HPV immunization program to include grade 6 boys and individuals 9 to 26 years of age who identify as transgender. These additions complement BC's current publicly funded HPV immunization program for grade 6 girls and males who are at a higher risk of contracting the virus, thus ensuring that the eligibility criteria for publicly funded HPV vaccine are comprehensive and equitable.

All individuals eligible for the publicly funded HPV immunization program in BC will receive the 9-valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil®9). This vaccine provides protection against nine types of HPV. This includes the types of HPV that cause about 90% of cervical cancers, as well as other HPV-related cancers of the vagina, vulva, anus, penis, mouth and throat. It also protects against two types of HPV that cause about 90% of anogenital warts. Although the grade 6 HPV immunization program will be mainly administered through routine school-based immunization clinics, the vaccine may also be requested through health care providers, pharmacists and public health units.

HPV immunization coverage rates have not reached levels comparable to other vaccines administered to adolescents. As with all immunization programs, success depends on health care providers like you promoting the vaccine to your eligible patients. Your recommendation to vaccinate is a strong predictor of vaccine uptake.

For questions about the HPV immunization program, please contact your local public health unit or refer to the following resources:

BCCDC's Q&A for HCPs: Updates to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Immunization Program:  
[http://bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Immunization/Vaccine%20Info/HPV\\_ProgramQandA\\_Aug\\_2017.pdf](http://bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Immunization/Vaccine%20Info/HPV_ProgramQandA_Aug_2017.pdf)

The BC Immunization Manual:  
[BC Immunization Manual, Part 4 – Biological Products, Human Papillomavirus Vaccine \(Nonavalent\)](#)

ImmunizeBC website:  
[www.immunizebc.ca](http://www.immunizebc.ca)