



August 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Calgary Catholic School District:

Re: HPV Immunization for girls and boys in grade 5 and boys in grade 9

On November 28, 2012, the Calgary Catholic Board of Trustees approved the administration of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine by Alberta Health Services (AHS) in all Calgary Catholic School District schools. This decision means that the HPV vaccine is offered as part of the routine in-school grade 5 and grade 9 vaccination programs, at all Calgary Catholic School District schools. HPV causes almost all cases of cervical cancers in women, and about 35 out of every 100 cases of cancer of the oropharynx (base of tongue and back of throat).

Alberta Health Services will offer HPV vaccine to all students in grade 5 and to boys in grade 9 in the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. Students who do not receive the series of three doses of HPV vaccine in grade 5 will be offered the vaccine series again in grade 9. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will be offered the vaccine when they are in grade 9.

A consent form and information package will be sent to parents of eligible students through the school. You will be asked to return the signed consent form, indicating your wish for your daughter or son to receive HPV vaccine through the in-school program at that time. For additional information about HPV and the vaccine, see albertapreventscancer.ca/reduce-your-risk/prevent-hpv-infections/.

Thank you for considering this important step to protect your daughter and/or son from HPV infection.

For further information on this vaccine and others, and the diseases they prevent, please visit: immunizealberta.ca.

You may also contact your school nurse regarding specific questions about HPV vaccine and other vaccines.

Sincerely,

Judy C. MacDonald, BSc, MD, MCM, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

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