



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	July 7, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Expansion (2016 - 2017 School Year) (BOH16031) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Background

Human papillomaviruses (HPV) are a group of viruses that can infect people. About 40 genotypes of the virus can infect the human anogenital area leading to genital warts and cancers of the cervix, vagina, vulva, penis, anus and back of the throat (oropharynx). Most HPV infections have no symptoms and resolve without any treatment or become undetectable; however, some can persist and lead to cancer. About three-quarters of people who are sexually active will get HPV at some point in their lifetime. Currently, HPV related cancers are the only cancers for which a preventive vaccine exists.

Public Health Services (PHS) currently offers school-based immunization clinics at 125 schools in the Hamilton region providing approximately 19,000 injections to students yearly. The current school schedule is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Current schedule for grade 7 and 8 school-based immunizations

	Fall	Spring
Grade 7	Hepatitis B dose #1	Hepatitis B dose #2, meningococcal
Grade 8 (females only)	HPV dose #1	HPV dose #2

Meningococcal vaccine is mandatory for school attendance under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*. Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines are voluntary.

Information

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of Health that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has expanded eligibility for the HPV immunization program. Effective September 2016, the MOHLTC will:

- Expand Ontario's school-based HPV immunization program to include boys; and,
- Move Ontario's school-based HPV immunization program from grade 8 to 7.

The expansion of the HPV immunization program to include boys is aligned with current scientific and expert recommendations including Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Moving the school-based HPV immunization program from grade 8 to 7 also aligns with expert recommendations to prioritize the immunization of individuals between 9 and 13 years of age, when the vaccine is most effective. The HPV vaccine can best prevent HPV-related diseases and cancers if received at a young age. This is consistent with other provinces and territories in Canada that offer publicly-funded HPV immunization programs in earlier grades.

PHS will continue to provide HPV immunization through school-based clinics to eligible grade 7 and 8 students in the 2016-2017 school year (Table 2). To support the transition of the program to grade 7, female students who are beginning their grade 8 year will remain eligible for publicly funded HPV vaccine through these clinics. The expansion of the HPV program does not include boys in their grade 8 year.

Table 2 : Tentative future schedule for grade 7 and 8 school-based immunizations

	Fall	Spring
Grade 7	Hepatitis B dose #1, HPV dose #1	Hepatitis B dose #2, HPV dose #2, Meningococcal
Grade 8 (females only)*	HPV dose #1	HPV dose #2

*After 2016-2017 school year all school-based immunizations will shift to grade 7 for males and females.

Preliminary estimates for the number of students eligible for the HPV vaccine in the 2016-2017 school year is 8,500 students. This includes 2,800 grade 8 females and 5,700 grade 7 males and females. In comparison, the total eligible population for the 2015-2016 school year was 2,740 grade 8 females.

PHS continues to work closely with the local school boards to provide the school-based immunization program.

Due to the expanded eligibility, more children are eligible for HPV immunization. In 2016-2017, this is further exacerbated by the need to immunize the grade 8 girls who would have been missed with the shift from immunization in grade 8 to 7. To ensure all students are immunized, nurses will require two days at larger schools, whereas previously only one day was required. The MOHLTC has not provided any additional funding for the expanded program, but will continue to reimburse PHS for HPV immunization at a rate of \$8.50 per dose. In order to remain within the Council approved budget during the 2016-2017 transition year, PHS may need to suspend community immunization clinics. Community immunization clinics administer vaccines to students who missed their immunizations at schools. These students will be able to catch-up on doses at the next school-based immunization clinic or through their primary care provider's office.