MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education 
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Elizabeth Harding 
Director 
Policy and Program Branch

DATE: September 6, 2007

RE: HPV Immunization Program – Fall 2007 Implementation

As you may be aware, the Ontario government has recently announced a new vaccination program for girls in Grade 8 to protect them against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). This is a voluntary school-based immunization program, like the Hepatitis B and Meningococcal C programs, and will be administered by local public health units. The program is being introduced in Fall 2007 and requires three doses of the vaccine during the school year. I encourage you to ask your schools to work with the local public health units to implement this new program this Fall.

The HPV immunization program is an important step in the prevention of cervical cancer. We have an excellent chance of preventing most cases of cervical cancer by offering the HPV vaccine at no cost to Grade 8 girls. The Grade 8 female cohort was selected because the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends the vaccine for girls between the ages of 9 and 13. Also, the Grade 8 Health and Physical Education curriculum includes curriculum expectations about sexually transmitted diseases.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will implement a broad public education campaign regarding this vaccine. Information such as fact sheets, consent forms, and resource kits for teachers and principals will be available to schools in early September from their local public health unit. I have attached the news release on the HPV vaccination program for your information.

If you have any questions about this immunization program, please contact your local health unit or the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s INFOLine at 1-866-559-4598.
Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Elizabeth Harding

Attachment

c: Ms. Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch, Ministry of Education
   Dr. David Williams, Director, Infectious Diseases Branch, MOHLTC
   Dr. Kirsten Zettensten, Infectious Diseases Branch, MOHLTC