

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

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April 21, 2016

To Boards of Health:

RE: Ontario's Publicly Funded Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Immunization Program

We are writing to inform you about an exciting expansion to Ontario's publicly funded Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunization program to help protect more youth from HPV infection and related cancers.

Consistent with the *Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care and Immunization 2020*, Ontario's five-year plan to modernize its publicly funded immunization program, effective September 2016, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will be:

- Expanding Ontario's school-based HPV immunization program to include boys; and
- Moving Ontario's school-based HPV immunization program from Grade 8 to Grade 7.

Ontario's HPV immunization program is currently available to Grade 8 girls through school-based immunization clinics administered by public health units. Starting in the 2016/17 school year, the school-based HPV immunization program will be offered to boys and girls in Grade 7. To support the transition of the program to Grade 7, female students who are beginning Grade 8 in the transitional 2016-17 school year will be eligible for publicly funded HPV vaccine through school-based clinics.

The expansion of Ontario's school-based HPV immunization program to include boys aligns with current scientific and expert recommendations. Moving the school-based HPV immunization program from Grade 8 to Grade 7 will bring Ontario in line with other jurisdictions in Canada that offer publicly funded HPV immunization programs in earlier grades.

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Further information and materials to support public health units and school boards in communicating these changes to health care providers and parents will be forthcoming.

We look forward to collaborating with you to implement this important initiative. We gratefully acknowledge the hard work that goes into the delivery of Ontario's publicly funded immunization program and thank you for your continued leadership.

Yours sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister

c. Medical Officers of Health and Associate Medical Officers of Health