



Supplement to: EDUCATION POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: September 10, 2019

Submitted by: Danielle Connelly, Trustee

Item: **Requiring Action** Yes No **For Information**

Subject: HPV9 Vaccination Equity

Background:

The disease:

- HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Three out of four sexually active people will get HPV at some point in their lives.
- Anyone who has any kind of sexual activity with another person involving oral, genital, or anal contact can get HPV.
- Sexual intercourse is not necessary to get infected.
- The more sexual partners you have, the higher the risk of being infected with HPV.
- Men who have sex with men are also at higher risk of HPV infection.
- Most people infected with HPV do not show any signs or symptoms and can pass the virus onto others without even knowing it.
- Most often an HPV infection will clear on its own. For some people, HPV will not go away and cells infected with the virus can become cancerous over time.

HPV infection is related to:

- almost ALL cases of cervical cancers
- about 80-90% of anal cancers
- 40% of vaginal and vulvar cancers
- 40-50% of penile cancers
- 25-35% of mouth and throat cancers (oral and oropharyngeal cancers)
- over 90% of genital warts

The vaccines:

- There are two [HPV vaccines](#) available in Canada: Cervarix® (HPV2) and Gardasil®9 (HPV9).
- Both vaccines protect against two (2) types of HPV that cause about 70% of cases of cervical cancer and 80% of cases of anal cancer. The HPV9 vaccine protects against five (5) additional types of HPV that cause 15% to 20% of cervical cancers and 11% of anal cancers in women and 4% in men.
- The HPV9 vaccine also protects against two (2) types of HPV that cause about 90% of cases of genital warts.
- Both of these vaccines are approved by Health Canada. The HPV9 vaccine is approved for use in both men and women. The HPV2 vaccine is only approved for use in women.

Source: ImmunizeBC

Starting in 2008 grade 6 girls were able to receive the HPV9 vaccine free of charge and in 2017, the HPV9 vaccine began being provided free to boys in grade 6 as well.

However, only boys born in 2006 or later are eligible for the free HPV9 vaccine whereas girls who did not get the vaccine in grade 6 remain eligible for the free HPV9 vaccine if they start their vaccine series before their 19th birthday and complete it before their 26th birthday (born in 1994 or later).

The Canadian Cancer Society recommends that all females age 9 to 45 and **males age 9 to 26** be vaccinated against HPV to help reduce their risk of HPV-associated cancers. (Source: Canadian Cancer Society)

For boys born prior to 2006 who do not fall in to a high risk category, the cost of the HPV9 vaccine must be paid out of pocket and costs approximately \$500 (source: ImmunizeBC).

There should not be a discrepancy based on sex for a vaccination that can save lives. The cost for of the vaccine for boys not eligible for the free vaccination is so cost prohibitive that those who want it might have to go without.

Recommendation:

THAT the Education Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No.40 (New Westminister) to write a letter to the Minister of Health, the Minister of Education and the Secretary for Gender Equity requesting that the HPV9 vaccine be provided free of charge for all males age 9 - 26, making it equal to what is currently available for females age 9 - 26.