Protect your child against human papillomavirus (HPV)  
For Grade 7 students

Why your child should get vaccinated against HPV now…

• To protect your child from getting human papillomavirus (HPV), which may cause genital warts, infections or cancer such as cervical cancer and oral cancer.
• To ensure the maximum benefit from the HPV vaccine. It is most effective when given to children aged 10 to 15 and BEFORE becoming sexually active.

Who should get this vaccine?
Students in Grade 7.

Who should NOT get this vaccine?
• Children who are allergic to any part of the vaccine or its packaging.
• Students who already received the vaccine.
• Pregnant women.

What you should know about HPV…

• HPV is very common.
• There are more than 100 types of HPV.
• About 70 per cent of the adult population will have had a genital HPV infection at some stage in their life.
• Genital HPV is spread through skin-to-skin contact during sex.
• Signs and symptoms are not always visible.
• HPV can cause cervical cancer, other genital cancer, and cancer of the anus, head, neck, mouth and throat.
• Most people are infected during the first two to five years after becoming sexually active.

What you can do to help protect your child against HPV…

• Encourage your child to get vaccinated NOW.
• Talk with your child about how to make informed sexual health decisions by discussing the following:
  – delaying sexual activity until an older age;
  – limiting the number of sexual partners;
  – being aware of a partner’s sexual history;
  – using condoms for protection against HPV and other sexually transmitted infections; and
  – being aware that the virus can be found on skin that is not covered by a condom.

What you should know about the HPV vaccine…

The vaccine…

• is SAFE and a completed series is very effective in preventing disease.
• is given by a needle in two doses at least six months apart.
• children with a weakened immune system should receive three doses of HPV vaccine. Please talk to your healthcare provider.
• all doses need to be given to ensure protection.

What to expect following HPV immunization…

• Common side effects are pain, redness, itching or swelling at the site of the injection.
• Other possible side effects are mild fever, nausea, vomiting, dizziness and headache.

Please note: As is the case with any vaccine, there is a small risk that a serious allergic reaction may occur. Therefore, your child will be asked to remain on site for at least 15 minutes after the vaccine is given so that possible immediate reactions can be monitored and treated.

How to treat fever and pain…

• A cold compress on the injection site may reduce discomfort.
• You may give your child acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (e.g., Advil®).
• NEVER give Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA or Aspirin®) to children younger than 18 years because it can cause a severe liver and brain disease called Reye’s syndrome.

What else you should know…

• If your child has a fever or illness other than a minor cold, the nurse may delay giving this vaccine.
• If your child’s immune system is affected by illness, steroid medication or cancer treatments, the decision to immunize must be made in consultation with your family physician.
• If your child has had an allergic reaction to a vaccine in the past, or if you have any questions, please contact your local Public Health office.
• Adverse reactions especially severe or unusual reactions in the four weeks following immunization should be reported to the local Public Health office. Please see your doctor if your child has a severe reaction.
• Contact your health care provider if you have questions about immunization.
• Further information is available at www.gnb.ca/ publichealth