



February 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In the Fall of 2008, British Columbia began offering Gardasil™, the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) to girls in grades 6 and 9. The grade 9 school-based program is a catch-up program and will be discontinued June 2011. The grade 6 program will continue. If your daughter was born in 1994 or later and did not receive the vaccine in either grade 6 or 9, she is still eligible to receive it free of charge. **If you would like your daughter to receive the HPV vaccine you will need to contact your local Health Unit to arrange an appointment.** You can also arrange for your daughter to get immunized with any other recommended vaccine that she may have missed in the past.

What you should know:

- HPV is so common that 3 out of 4 women will get infected with it sometime in their lives.
- The vaccine protects against 100% of HPV types that cause the majority of cervical cancer.
- Girls should get HPV vaccine at a younger age because:
 - They are better protected when they get the vaccine before they become sexually intimate.
 - HPV vaccine builds better protection in younger girls. Studies have shown that the vaccine results in a higher immune response when given to girls under the age of 13.
- HPV vaccine is being used in more than 122 countries and 68 million doses have been distributed worldwide. The accumulating evidence on the safety of HPV vaccines is very reassuring. No serious events caused by this vaccine have been observed. The most common reported reactions continue to be pain, redness and swelling at the injection site and headache. These reactions are observed in adolescents with a variety of vaccines.
- Since the start of the HPV vaccine program in BC, almost 250,000 doses of vaccine have been administered to girls in grades 6 and 9.
- **Vaccinating your daughter now will give her the best protection possible against cervical cancer.**

Please visit ImmunizeBC.ca or call the **ImmunizeBC line at 1-877-720-2546** to speak to a healthcare provider about the HPV vaccine.

If your daughter has already received the HPV vaccine please disregard this reminder.

Promotion & Prevention Services
Public Health Nursing

Facility Locations

	Phone
Armstrong (Pleasant Valley Health Centre)	(250) 546-4727
Enderby Community Health Centre	(250) 838-2450
Kelowna Central Health Centre	(250) 868-7700
Rutland Health Centre (Kelowna)	(250) 980-4825
Keremeos Health Centre	(250) 499-3029
Summerland Health Centre	(250) 404-8050
Vernon Health Centre	(250) 549-5721

Facility Locations

	Phone
Lumby Health Centre	(250) 547-2164
Oliver Health Centre	(250) 498-5080
Osoyoos Health Centre	(250) 495-6433
Penticton Health Centre	(250) 770-3434
Princeton Health Centre	(250) 295-4442
West Kelowna Health Centre	(250) 980-5150