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PUBLICLY FUNDED HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV) VACCINE

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends that:

- 1. The recommendation contained in the following report, August 28, 2007, from the Commissioner of Community Services, Housing and Health Services be adopted; and**
- 2. Staff provide a summary report at the conclusion of the program including information on the participation rate.**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report informs Council of the new school-based publicly funded vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) that will be offered to young women in Grade 8 beginning this fall.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 HPV accounts for up to 70% of cervical cancer cases

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in Canada and a cause of cervical cancer. Most sexually active individuals are exposed to one type of HPV or another during their lifetime. The majority of infected individuals will clear the infection on their own; however in some individuals infection can progress to either persistent genital warts or cervical cancer.

There are several different HPV types that infect humans. These types are classified as either low risk because they progress to genital warts or high risk because they progress to cervical cancer. Two low risk types, HPV6 and HPV11, account for up to 90% of cases of genital warts; two high risk types, HPV16 and HPV 18, account for up to 70% of cases of cervical cancer. These high risk types are also implicated in other genital cancers.

Cervical cancer affects about 1,350 Canadian women and causes 390 deaths each year. Ontario has about 500 new cases a year and 140 deaths from cervical cancer. Based on

population, it can be estimated that approximately 38 new cases and 11 deaths occur amongst York Region residents each year.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 New HPV Vaccine approved by Health Canada

On July 10, 2006, Gardasil[®], a new vaccine manufactured by Merck & Co. Inc., which provides protection against HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18 was approved by Health Canada. In February 2007, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended the use of Gardasil[®] for women 9 to 26 years of age. It has been shown to be 99–100% effective in preventing persistent HPV infection with types 6, 11, 16 and 18, particularly when given before females become sexually active and are exposed to the HPV infection.

Currently Gardasil is not approved for males in Canada and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization does not recommend it for males at this time. The volume of research on males is less extensive and the efficacy of Gardasil[®] in males is yet unknown. Further research is underway. There is potential for protection against genital warts in men and decreased transmission of oncogenic types of HPV from men to women.

The vaccine does not eliminate the need for cervical cancer screening. Not all HPV types that cause cervical cancer are included in the vaccine so sexually active women are still susceptible to infection with other HPV types. Regular pap tests and safe sex practices are still the best ways to prevent cervical cancer and sexually transmitted infections.

4.2 HPV Immunization Program for Grade 8 Females

The HPV vaccination program will be a voluntary school-based program for Grade 8 females and will commence this fall.

It is projected that approximately 7,000 females in York Region will be eligible to receive the vaccine this school year.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) will provide a fee of \$8.50 per dose and it is anticipated that this allocation will cover 100% of the immunization costs.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The introduction of the HPV vaccine will have a positive local municipal impact in that the immunized cohort throughout York Region should experience a lower rate of cervical cancer lesions and genital warts.

7. CONCLUSION

With the introduction of the Gardasil[®] vaccine as a school-based publicly funded vaccine, a decrease in the incidence of cervical cancer is anticipated. The HPV vaccination program will start this fall for York Region Grade 8 females on a voluntary basis.

For more information on this report, please contact Dr. Karim Kurji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, in the Public Health Branch of the Health Services Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.