

September 11, 2017

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics

RE: RELEASE OF HPV9 VACCINE/Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) AMENDMENTS

RELEASE OF HPV9:

- Beginning **September 2017**, the HPV9 or Gardasil®9 vaccine will be offered to all students in Grade 7 in the 2017/18 school year. The HPV9 vaccine protects against the same HPV types as the HPV4 vaccine, plus five additional HPV types, which can lead to cervical and anogenital cancers, as well as certain cancers of the head and neck.
- Students eligible prior to the 2017/18 school year (including males in Grade 8 and females in Grades 8 to 12) who have not started or completed their HPV vaccine series will continue to receive HPV4 vaccine.
- Orders for HPV vaccine can be placed for eligible students, as indicated above, through the usual ordering practice.
- In addition, until **August 31, 2018**, HPV4 vaccine may be offered through public health-run sexual health clinics to individuals 26 years of age and younger who meet certain eligibility criteria.

ISPA AMENDMENTS:

- Starting **September 1, 2017**, parents/guardians who intend to request a **non-medical** exemption for their child(ren) will be required to complete an immunization education session in person, one-on-one with a member of the Health Unit's vaccine preventable diseases program.
- Parents/guardians will still be required to complete the *Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief* form by swearing or affirming in front of a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits.
- Both the *Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief* form along with a *Vaccine Education Certificate* are to be submitted to the health unit in order to commence the **non-medical** exemption.

Should you require further information, please contact the Health Unit and ask to speak with a Vaccine Preventable Disease Nurse in the Communicable Disease Control, Epidemiology and Evaluation Department at 1-866-888-4577.

NOTE: For easier access to the above web links, visit the Health Unit website (www.hkpr.on.ca) for electronic copies of all current – and previous – editions of *FAX Facts*. Go to the 'Resources & Forms' header at the top of the web page, and use the drop-down menu to click on the 'Health Care Professionals' section (a link to FAX Facts is posted there). A direct link is also provided below:

www.hkpr.on.ca/ResourcesForms/HealthCareProfessionals/FAXFacts.aspx