

TE/HPV letter july 2011

July 2011

(Year 8 Girls)

HPV Vaccinations

School Health Nurses in Oxfordshire are offering the routine cervical cancer vaccine programme to all girls aged 12-13 years of age (school Year 8). Cervical cancer affects the cervix, the entrance to the womb. This cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus, otherwise known as HPV.

The vaccine is offered because at current rates we expect 2,000 girls to develop cervical cancer in later life and about 800 to die from it for each school year group in the UK. This would equate to an estimated 18 girls in each Oxfordshire year group getting the disease in later life and 7 in each Oxfordshire year group dying from it. The vaccine used, called Cervarix, is expected to take away about 70% of this risk for those vaccinated.

This HPV vaccine has passed the rigorous safety testing needed for it to be used in the UK and other European countries. It has a strong safety record and several million doses have been given around the world including more than 1.4 million in the UK.

The programme itself consists of 3 immunizations given over a six month period. The first will be given on 29th September 2011, the second on 15th November 2011 and the final one in March or April 2012 on a date yet to be arranged, which you will be notified about closer to the time.

The School Health Nurse team will be delivering an assembly in September at school prior to the vaccination commencement date, which you are welcome to attend with your daughter if you wish. You will then be asked if you would like your daughter to have the HPV vaccine (a form will be provided for your signed permission before we administer the vaccine).

We hope this gives you the background information you need to enable you and your daughter to make a positive choice to commence this immunization course in September. Further information can be obtained from the website www.immunisation.nhs.uk/hpv or by telephoning the School Health Nurse team on 01295 819133.

School Health Nurses