

September 2014

Dear Grade 8 Student and Parents:

Please find attached a Human Papillomavirus vaccine fact sheet and consent form for this year's school immunization program. Please review the information together and complete sections 1 through 4 on the consent form. We ask that all students bring their completed consent form back to school prior to the school clinic, regardless of whether they are choosing to receive the vaccine being offered or not. These vaccines are free through the health unit school program.

In Section 3, parents are asked to sign that they have read the fact sheet and are aware that their daughter will be offered this vaccine at a school-based clinic. Section 4 is the actual consent for vaccination, where the student is asked to make the decision and sign. We require the consent of the student to be vaccinated because the Health Care Consent Act¹ in Ontario does not identify a minimum age at which a person may give consent. Rather it is the responsibility of the health care provider to determine, for a particular health care service or treatment, if a person is able to:

- Understand the information being presented to them; and
- Appreciate the consequences of a decision to receive or not to receive the treatment.

The vast majority of students in grade 8 have the capacity to make informed decisions and give informed consent for vaccination. This is their legal right and, as health care providers, we have a legal and ethical responsibility to make sure this happens.²

In the event that a nurse determines a student is not able to understand the information being presented, and therefore is not able to provide informed consent, the nurse will contact the student's parent or guardian.

Parents play a very important role in helping their children make decisions about their health. We encourage parents and students to read the provided information on the vaccine. For more information, visit our website www.simcoemuskokahealth.org. There are video links available on the School Immunization page that you can watch together to learn more about HPV and the HPV vaccine. If you have any further questions, please contact us at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a nurse.

Sincerely,

Colin Q-T Lee, MD, MSc, CCFP(EM), FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health

Attch. (2)

¹Health Care Consent Act, 1996

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_96h02_e.htm

²College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario Consent to Medical Treatment Policy
<http://www.cpso.on.ca/policies/policies/default.aspx?ID=1544>

□ Barrie: 15 Sperling Drive Barrie, ON L4M 6K9 705-721-7520 FAX: 705-721-1495	□ Collingwood: 280 Pretty River Pkwy. Collingwood, ON L9Y 4J5 705-445-0804 FAX: 705-445-6498	□ Cookstown: 2-25 King Street S. Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0 705-458-1103 FAX: 705-458-0105	□ Gravenhurst: 2-5 Pineridge Gate Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z3 705-684-9090 FAX: 705-684-9887	□ Huntsville: 34 Chaffey St. Huntsville, ON P1H 1K1 705-789-8813 FAX: 705-789-7245	□ Midland: B-865 Hugel Ave. Midland, ON L4R 1X8 705-526-9324 FAX: 705-526-1513	□ Orillia: 120-169 Front St. S. Orillia, ON L3V 4S8 705-325-9565 FAX: 705-325-2091
---	--	---	--	--	--	--