

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Re: Human Papilloma Vaccination (HPV) programme in schools

As you may be aware the HPV vaccine (Cervarix®) has been in the news recently due to the sad death of a young girl in Coventry shortly after receiving the vaccine.

Preliminary results from the autopsy on the young girl suggest that she had a rare and grave underlying medical condition that was likely to have caused her death. Indications are that it was most unlikely that the HPV vaccination was the cause of death.

Before this information was known, following the incident the manufacturer of the Cervarix® vaccine had voluntarily initiated a recall of the vaccine batch that had been used. However, the vaccine programme in Gloucestershire has remained unaffected and we are continuing to offer the vaccine to young girls.

Despite the withdrawal of this batch of the vaccine, it is important to remember that 1.4 million doses have been administered so far and that tests have shown it to be extremely safe.

The vaccination programme against cervical cancer gives us the opportunity to help prevent a very serious disease that affects over 3,000 women every year in the UK and causes over 1,000 deaths.

You may have already received a letter regarding your daughter receiving this vaccine and filled out a consent form. We appreciate however that you may now feel you need more information before your daughter is immunised. There is information about the HPV vaccine on the national immunisation website at [www.immunisation.nhs.uk](http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk). If you have a specific query you can speak to a member of the immunisation team or School Nurse.

If you do not wish the immunisation to be carried out, please send in a note to school. If your daughter does miss this dose, there will be an opportunity to complete the programme at a later stage.

Yours sincerely



Dr Shona Arora  
Director of Public Health