



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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RICHMOND, VA 23218

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1-800-828-1120

Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP
State Health Commissioner

Dear Parents of Rising Sixth Grade Students:

The 2007 Virginia General Assembly passed a law that requires the Virginia Department of Health to provide the parents of rising sixth grade girls with information on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine, to ensure that parents are well informed of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation that girls 11-12 years old receive the vaccine. In 2011, the CDC made an additional recommendation that boys of the same age also routinely receive HPV vaccine.

Some strains of HPV cause cervical cancer in women. HPV is also associated with several less common cancers in both men and women. The HPV vaccine is the first vaccine developed to prevent most cervical cancers. The vaccine targets the strains of HPV that most commonly cause cervical cancer and is highly effective in preventing infection with these types of HPV in young people who have not been exposed to them before getting the vaccine.

After reviewing the information provided on the reverse side of this letter, please contact your health care provider to determine if your child should receive the vaccine series. HPV vaccine is available from your doctor, military clinics, or the local health department. If you choose to have your child vaccinated, you may provide documentation to your child's school and they will update your child's school immunization record.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Sandra Sommer, PhD, Division of Immunization, Virginia Department of Health, by telephone at 804-864-8055, or by email at sandra.sommer@vdh.virginia.gov or Tia Campbell, Office of Student Services, Virginia Department of Education, by telephone at 804-786-8671, or by email at tia.campbell@doe.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marissa J. Levine".

Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP
State Health Commissioner