May 31, 2016

The Honourable Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, On M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Hoskins:

RE: Changes to the HPV Immunization Program.

At its meeting on May 25, 2016, The Board of Health for the District of Algoma Health Unit carried the following resolution #2016-50.

WHEREAS Ontario is expanding the publicly funded human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program to include boys in Grade 7; and

WHEREAS Algoma Public Health supports the immunization of boys to help prevent the spread of HPV and prevent cancer; and

WHEREAS the HPV vaccine will continue to be provided to girls in Grade 8 for the transition year until all grade 7 students receive the vaccination; and

WHEREAS the Ministry estimates about 154,000 students will be eligible to receive the vaccine each year; and

WHEREAS APH, similar to other PHUs, plans to deliver the vaccination program over the course of three school visits in order to avoid giving more than two doses of vaccine per student per visit, which will increase the number of school clinics by approximately 33% (previously two visits per year); and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s (MOHLTC) Immunization 2020 Strategy strives to “reduce health risks related to vaccine-preventable diseases in the province”; and

WHEREAS the MOHLTC has not increased funding to the Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) program despite adding responsibilities and new vaccines to the program.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Algoma Public Health commends the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for its commitment to expand its HPV vaccination program to young males who are starting grade 7 this September; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Algoma Public Health urges the MOHLTC to consider increasing the annual funding for the VPD program in order to provide the staff resources to meet the above mandate.

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Roselle Martino, Executive Director, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Medical Officers of Health, and Ontario Boards of Health, and member municipalities.

Sincerely,

Lee Mason
Board of Health Chair

cc: The Honourable Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
    Roselle Martino, Executive Director, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
    Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
    The Association of Local Public Health Agencies
    Ontario Medical Officers of Health
    Ontario Boards of Health
    Member municipalities.