June 29, 2017

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
10th Floor Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto ON M7A 2C4

Dear Honourable Hoskins:

Re: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Immunization Catch-up for Boys

On May 26, 2017 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached correspondence from Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health regarding implementation of a publically-funded human papillomavirus (HPV) immunization catch-up program for boys. The following motion was passed:

Motion No: 2017-56

Moved by: Al Barfoot    Seconded by: Laurie Laporte

"In support of equity of access to publically funded human papillomavirus immunization, the Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit supports the call by Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health that the Ontario government implement a publically funded HPV immunization catch-up program for boys similar to catch up program undertaken for girls in 2012."

Carried

Sincerely,

Christine Kennedy, MSc, MS, DPhil, MD, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and CEO
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Encl.

Cc: Ontario Public Health Units
May 3, 2017

DELIVERED VIA E-MAIL & REGULAR MAIL

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Attention: The Honourable Eric Hoskins
Office of the Minister

Dear Hon. Hoskins:

Re: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Immunization Catch-up for Boys

The Board of Health (BOH) for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) would like to request that the Ontario Government implement a publicly-funded human papillomavirus (HPV) immunization catch-up program for boys similar to the catch-up program implemented for girls in 2012. It is important to close this gap in publicly-funded vaccine eligibility for boys.

In 2012, NACI recommended HPV vaccination for all males between the ages of 9 and 26 and for all men who have sex with men (MSM) aged 9 and older. PIDAC-I also recommends publicly-funded Gardasil for MSM or males who identify as homosexual up to the age of 26 years. As the most common preventable sexually-transmitted infection (STI), HPV has been directly linked to serious health conditions such as cervical, oral, penile and anal cancers, as well as abnormal cell growth in these areas of the body that are causally associated with various cancers and anal warts.

Some families with health benefit coverage may have the opportunity to purchase the vaccine. However, lower income families and families without extended health benefits are not afforded equal opportunity to be protected from HPV-related cancers. Universal funding would also protect the highly vulnerable group of boys who will go on to identify as MSM but are currently not identifying their eligibility for the publicly-funded vaccine.

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The WDGPH BOH would like to request that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care address this public health concern by expanding the publicly-funded HPV immunization programs to include a catch-up program for boys. We believe this is the approach that aligns with the Ontario Government’s stance on health equity and would reduce the burden of HPV-related cancers in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Nancy Sullivan
Chair, WDGHU Board of Health

cc. alPHA – via e-mail
cc. Liz Sandals, MPP (Guelph) – via e-mail
cc. Ted Arnott, MPP (Wellington-Halton Hills) – via e-mail
cc. Sylvia Jones, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon) – via e-mail
cc. Randy Pettapiece, MPP (Perth-Wellington) – via e-mail
cc. Ontario Public Health Units – via e-mail