

alPHa's members are
the public health units
in Ontario.

alPHA Sections:

Boards of Health
Section

Council of Ontario
Medical Officers of
Health (COMOH)

**Affiliate
Organizations:**

ANDSOOHA - Public
Health Nursing
Management

Association of Ontario
Public Health Business
Administrators

Association of
Public Health
Epidemiologists
in Ontario

Association of
Supervisors of Public
Health Inspectors of
Ontario

Health Promotion
Ontario

Ontario Association of
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Society of
Nutrition Professionals
in Public Health

December 12 2013

Hon. Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews,

Re: Expansion of HPV Program in Ontario

On behalf of member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA), I am writing today to remind you of alPHA's position on expanding Ontario's publicly-funded HPV vaccination program to all students, as illustrated in the attached resolution (A12-10).

Following the recent announcement by the Provincial Government of Alberta of the expansion of its HPV program to cover males, we feel that it is past time for Ontario to seriously consider doing the same.

As you know, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization has recommended HPV vaccination for both males and females between the ages of 9 and 26 years. In keeping with an earlier alPHA Resolution (A01-3, also attached) that calls for public funding for all vaccines licensed in Canada subject to NACI recommendations, we are renewing our call to further expand the HPV immunization program in Ontario.

As stated in the *Ontario Action Plan for Health Care*, we must be relentless in maintaining our efforts to save lives that would otherwise be lost to cancer. While screening and early detection are important, prevention of the occurrence of cancer in the first place is more so. HPV vaccine has been clearly demonstrated to do just that, regardless of gender.

We are eager to congratulate you for further expanding this important health program and will be pleased to assist by working in our communities with local partners to ensure maximum uptake of this life-saving vaccine.

Yours truly,



Mary Johnson
President

Copy: Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health; Kate Manson-Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (Health Promotion Division); Roselle Martino, Executive Director of Health and Long-Term Care (Ontario; Public Health Division); Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; Hon. Liz Sandals Minister of Education; Hon. Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance

alPHa RESOLUTION A12-10

TITLE: HPV Immunization of All Students

SPONSOR: The Regional Municipality of Durham

WHEREAS infection with HPV types 6 and 11 causes anogenital warts and with HPV types 16 and 18 is associated with cancers of the penis, anus, mouth, and oropharynx in males; and

WHEREAS more than 70% of sexually active men and women are infected with HPV at least once in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS HPV infection is associated with a significant burden of anogenital warts and anogenital and head & neck cancer; and

WHEREAS in Canada, of the ~150 men and ~200 women who are diagnosed with anal cancer every year, 80 to 90% case are HPV positive; and

WHEREAS in February 2010, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine (Gardasil®) was authorized by Health Canada to expand its indications to include males 9 to 26 years of age for the prevention of infection caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18 and for genital warts caused by HPV types 6 and 11; and

WHEREAS in May 2011, Gardasil® was indicated in females and males 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of anal cancer caused by HPV types 16 and 18 and anal intraepithelial neoplasia grades 1, 2, and 3 caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18; and

WHEREAS in January 2012, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) advised that Gardasil® be recommended for use in males between 9 and 26 years of age for the prevention of anal intraepithelial neoplasia grades 1, 2, and 3, anal cancer, and anogenital warts (NACI Grade A Recommendation); and

WHEREAS NACI also advised that Gardasil® be recommended in males between 9 and 26 years of age for the prevention of penile, perianal, and perineal intraepithelial neoplasia and associated cancers (NACI Grade B Recommendation); and

WHEREAS all grade 8 female students are eligible to receive 3 publicly funded doses of Gardasil® through public health school-based immunization clinics”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that alPHa urges the Ontario government to expand Ontario’s Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule to make Gardasil® available to male students through public health school-based immunization clinics;

AND FURTHER that all students who are eligible for immunization against HPV maintain their eligibility throughout high school.

AND FURTHER that alPHa recommends a review to be conducted of the program to enhance uptake in girls including moving the program to grade 7 and implementing a catch-up program.

2001 aPHa RESOLUTION NO. A01-3

TITLE: Vaccine Availability

SPONSOR: Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit Board of Health

WHEREAS safe and effective vaccines are cost beneficial when used in appropriate populations; and

WHEREAS vaccines licensed for use in Canada have been determined to be safe and effective by Health Canada; and

WHEREAS the National Advisory Committee on Immunization makes recommendations as to the appropriate populations requiring immunization and for whom immunizations would be worthwhile ; and

WHEREAS the goal of the Infectious Disease Program of the Mandatory Programs Standards is that infectious diseases will be reduced or eliminated; and

WHEREAS use of vaccines has repeatedly demonstrated a reduction or elimination of infectious disease; and

WHEREAS any Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who develops a vaccine preventable disease, regardless of the point of origin of the infection, is eligible for all treatment at public expense;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aPHa) petition the Provincial Government to:

- 1) fund all vaccines licensed in Canada within 12 months of such licensure and
- 2) make all vaccines licensed in Canada available through Boards of Health for administration to the categories of individuals as recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

***Status of Resolution:* Endorsed by the aPHa membership June 12, 2001**