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TO: **All Users of State Supplied Vaccines**

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DATE: **January 23, 2007**

SUBJECT: **Expansion of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine VFC Age-eligibility to 9-18 years**

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you of the expansion of age-groups in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program that qualify to be vaccinated with state-supplied HPV vaccine. This vaccine protects individuals against the most common strains of HPV that cause cervical cancer and genital warts.

HPV Vaccine

Human papillomavirus is most common in young men and women who are in their teens and early 20's. In June 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that the first licensed HPV vaccine be routinely administered to females 11-12 years of age. The ACIP also recommends using the vaccine for girls as early as nine years old as well as catch up vaccination for females 13-26 years of age.

Beginning February 1st, the Immunization Program is expanding the use of state-supplied HPV vaccine to include *all* VFC-eligible adolescent females 9-18 years of age, not just those who are age 11-12 years.

VFC eligibility is defined as any one of the following:

- Medicaid enrolled
- No health insurance
- American Indian or Alaskan Native

In addition, those individuals who are underinsured (have health insurance that does not cover the full cost of immunizations) can be referred to a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to be immunized with VFC-supplied vaccine.

As a reminder, the vaccine comes packaged in 10 single dose vials per box and must be refrigerated at 35-46 degrees Fahrenheit. The vaccine is administered as a three dose series on a 0, 2, and 6 month schedule. An updated Vaccine Eligibility Criteria list for state supplied vaccines with the corresponding CPT Codes is enclosed for your records. As always if you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.