



**Greater Manchester
Health Protection Unit**

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30 September 2009

Dear Colleague,

RE: Update on HPV Incident

Following the tragic death of a 14 year after receiving the HPV vaccine, the Joint Director of Public Health for NHS Coventry and Coventry City Council announced today that: "The preliminary post mortem results have revealed a rare serious underlying medical condition which was likely to have caused death. We are awaiting further test results which will take some time. However indications are that it was most unlikely that the HPV vaccination was the cause of death."

As a purely precautionary measure, stocks of Cervarix vaccine from the batch that the girl received have been removed from nationwide stocks until the results of the investigation are available. In addition, the vaccine manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline, announced yesterday that it was recalling this batch for testing. The Department of Health will inform doctors and nurses of the results of the batch testing as soon as they are known.

The Department of Health has advised that the HPV vaccination programme will continue as planned. The Health Protection Agency supports this advice.

Minor delays might occur in the next day or so while some areas await fresh supplies of HPV vaccine to replace the recalled stock.

Parents or young people concerned about the safety of any vaccine can speak to their GP or school nurse, visit www.nhs.uk or call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rosemary McCann'.

**Dr Rosemary McCann
Consultant in Communicable Disease Control**

Our ref: KM/Im/KM2449
Your ref:

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Oakland House
Talbot Road
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To: Headteachers,
Deputy Headteachers,
Pastoral Support

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14 September 2009

Dear Colleagues

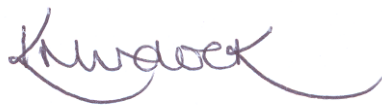
As you may have seen in the news yesterday a 14 year old girl has died in Coventry following the HPV vaccine. While this is certainly tragic to the family of the girl concerned and may cause concern to the year groups and their families, there has not been a proven link to the vaccine as the cause of this unfortunate death. A statement released from NHS Coventry today has stated that it is most unlikely that the vaccine contributed to the death, as the preliminary post mortem has revealed a serious underlying medical condition which was likely to have caused death.

There have been over 1 million girls vaccinated across the country with no previous concerns or extreme reactions to the vaccine. We should not lose sight of the fact that this vaccine saves lives and could lead to a generation of woman unaffected by this particular cancer.

Many of you are currently involved in the vaccination process and concerns will be heightened by this sad event. However, given the numbers that have been through this programme, there are assurances that the vast majority of girls that have been through without any reactions. The nursing team that are dispensing the vaccine are highly trained to monitor and deal with any reaction, including anaphylaxis.

We appreciate that you may be experiencing a high level of queries from anxious parents so will continue to keep you informed as we received information, to enable you to reassure parents as far as possible. I have also attached the latest statement from the Health Protection agency on the situation. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions at the address above.

Yours sincerely



Kate Murdock
Immunisation Co-ordinator

erry Atherton
Chair

Mrs Sheena H Cumiskey
Chief Executive