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Human Papillomavirus Virus Vaccine Recommended for Adolescent Girls

Kingsford, Michigan, December 11, 2006 - The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends routine vaccination with Human Papillomavirus virus vaccine (HPV4) for the following groups:

- Adolescents females 11-12 years old
- Adolescent females ages 13-18 years of age who have not received the vaccine. It may be given to females as young as 9 years of age.
- The vaccine is also recommended for young women 19-26 years of age.

According to the ACIP's recommendation, three doses of the new vaccine should be routinely given to girls when they are 11 or 12 years old. The recommendations also extend to the other age groups (18-26).

The Human Papillomavirus virus is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women. Gardasil®, manufactured by Merck, is the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions and genital warts due to HPV.

"This vaccine represents an important medical breakthrough," said Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. "As a result, these vaccine recommendations address a major health problem for women and represent a significant advance in women's health. It has been tested in thousands of women around the world and has been found to be safe and effective in providing protection against the two types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers."

For more information or to make an appointment for this vaccination, call your health care provider or the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department at (906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-9913.

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