

COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS

HUMAN PAPILLOAVIRUS (HPV) INFORMATION SHEET

In order to comply with the General Assembly of North Carolina General Statute below, the following information is provided to parents of students who are entering grades 5 – 12, at the beginning of each school year.

In 2007 the General Assembly of North Carolina enacted the following to include HPV:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

(49) To Ensure that Schools Provide Information Concerning Cervical Cancer, Cervical Dysplasia, Human Papillomavirus, and the Vaccines Available to Prevent These Diseases. – Local boards of education shall ensure that schools provide parents and guardians with information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, human papillomavirus, and the vaccines available to prevent these diseases. This information shall be provided at the beginning of the school year to parents of children entering grades 5 through 12. This information shall include the causes and symptoms of these diseases, how they are transmitted, how they may be prevented by vaccination, including the benefits and possible side effects of vaccination, and places parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children."

(5/31/07)

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted infection. There are over 40 types of HPV and they are transmitted through sexual contact including genital-to-genital contact, oral and anal sex. Most people never develop symptoms or health problems and infect their partners unknowingly. Health problems caused by HPV are genital warts, cervical cancer, recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (warts grow on throat), genital cancer and oropharyngeal cancer. There is no cure for HPV though the health problems it causes can be treated.

Receiving the HPV vaccine can prevent both males and females from most HPV types and the health problems they can cause. Two vaccines are available to protect against HPV, Gardasil and Cervarix. All 11 to 12 year old girls are recommended, by the Center for Disease Control, to receive either Gardasil or Cervarix 3dose vaccine, with girls and young women between the ages of 13-26 to also receive the vaccine if they have not already done so or received the complete series. The Center for Disease Control also recommends boys age 11 to 12 and males 13-21 years old receive the Gardasil vaccine if they haven't not already done so or received the complete series. Both Gardasil and Cervarix dosage series are to give the 1st vaccine dose, then the 2nd vaccine dose is to be administered 1-2 months after the 1st dose and the final, 3rd dose is administered 6 months after the 1st dose. Abstinence and condoms are also highly encouraged for preventing HPV transmission.

More information can be obtained at your local health department or doctor's office, as well as at the Center for Disease Control website, <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/default.htm> . Vaccine administration can be received at your local health department or doctor's office.