



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis Schrader, Secretary

August 2, 2017

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AUG 16 2017

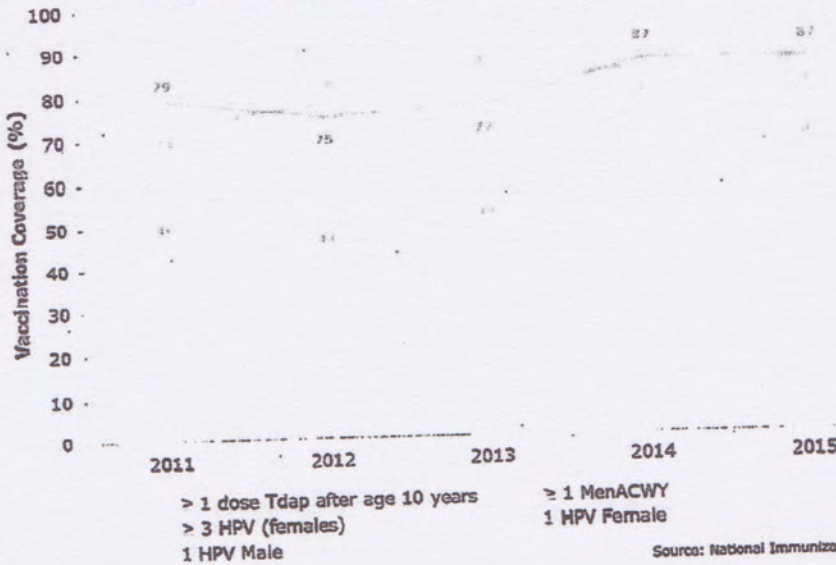
Dr. Jack R. Smith
Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Smith,

We are writing to ask for your help in addressing the critical public health issue of under-vaccination of Maryland's adolescents against Human Papillomavirus (HPV). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 14 million people, including teens, become infected with HPV each year, posing a significant public health risk. HPV is a common virus that can cause several types of cancers affecting men and women, including cervical, penile, anal, and throat cancers.

A preventive measure exists to protect against these HPV-related cancers. The HPV vaccine is recommended for preteen boys and girls at age 11 or 12 because it provides protection *before exposure* to the virus and produces a more robust immune response during the preteen years. However, current Maryland data shows that vaccination rates for Tdap and meningococcal, vaccines recommended for the same age group, are considerably higher than those for HPV ($\geq 32\%$ higher than HPV rates). This gap in coverage indicates missed opportunities to vaccinate boys and girls against HPV *at the same time as other routinely recommended adolescent vaccines*.

Estimated Vaccination Coverage With Selected Vaccines
Among Adolescents Aged 13-17 Yrs, 2011-2015, Maryland



2017-18... MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH... AUG 16 2017



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Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

June 15, 2018

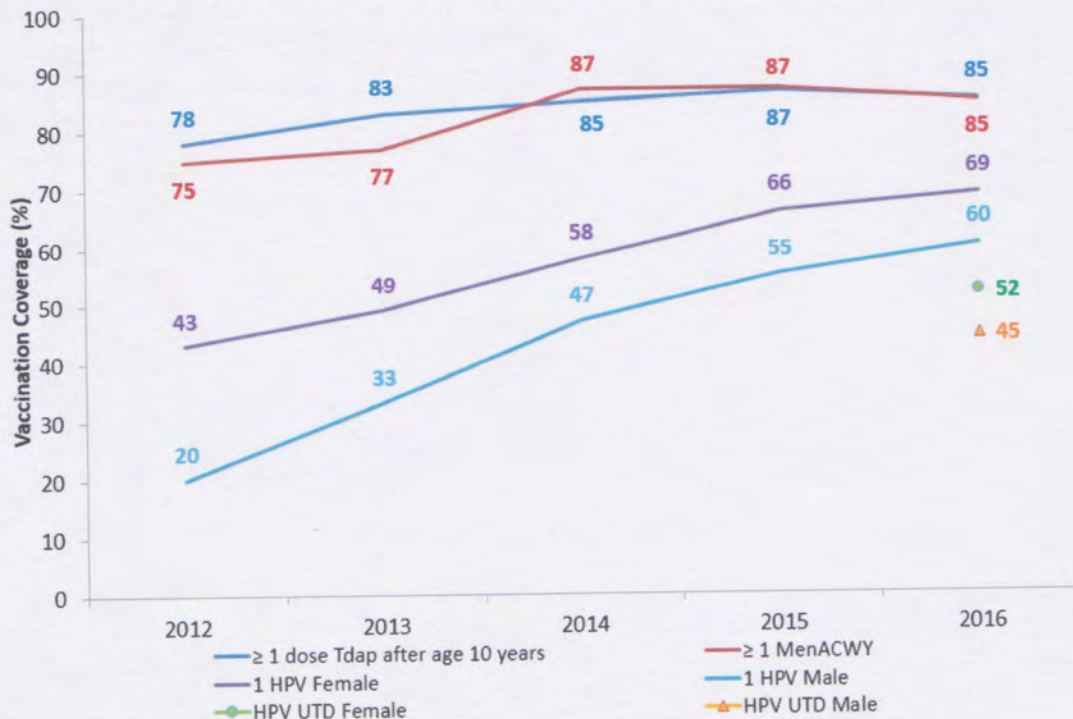
Superintendent County Public Schools

Dear,

We are writing to ask for your help in addressing the public health issue of vaccination of Maryland's adolescents against Human Papillomavirus (HPV). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 14 million people, including teens, become infected with HPV each year, posing a significant public health risk. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States. HPV can also cause several types of cancers affecting men and women, including cervical, penile, anal, and throat cancers.

A preventive measure exists to protect against these HPV and-related cancers. According to the CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) the HPV vaccine is recommended for preteen boys and girls at age 11 or 12 because it provides protection *before exposure* to the virus and produces a more robust immune response during the preteen years. However, current Maryland data shows that vaccination rates for Tdap and meningococcal vaccines, recommended for the same age group, are considerably higher than those for HPV ($\geq 40\%$ higher than HPV rates). This gap in coverage indicates missed opportunities to vaccinate boys and girls against HPV *at the same time as other routinely recommended adolescent vaccines*.

Estimated Vaccination Coverage With Selected Vaccines Among Adolescents Aged 13-17 Yrs, 2012-2016, Maryland



Source: National Immunization Survey

During the upcoming 2018 back to school season, it's important to maximize the opportunities for age eligible children to initiate or complete the HPV vaccination series while they are visiting providers to obtain *school-entry required vaccinations* (Tdap and meningococcal) or for other services. As the Allegany County Public Schools Superintendent, you have the capability to influence parents and schools in your county on this issue. According to the 2016 CDC WONDER population estimates, there are 662 females and 744 males in Allegany County that are of eligible age, 11-12 years old, to receive the HPV vaccine.

Please join this statewide effort to increase HPV vaccination coverage by supporting parent education through distribution of trusted educational material* to parents and guardians through schools in your jurisdiction. Schools may distribute educational information by:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailing fact sheets to parents or printing facts sheets to distribute <i>along with</i> school-entry required vaccination educational materials • Distributing printed fact sheets at Back to School events, PTA meetings, or other events held at schools 	<p>Fact Sheet for Parents (English) http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/teen/hpv-indepth-color.pdf</p> <p>Fact Sheet for Parents (Spanish) http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/teen/hpv-indepth-color-sp.pdf</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailing PSAs (30 second videos) to parents • Displaying PSA videos at Back to School events, PTA meetings, or other events held at schools 	<p>30 second PSA video about HPV (English) https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/media/resources/index.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click on the "Adolescent" tab • Scroll for 3 HPV vaccine PSAs <p>30 second PSA video about HPV (Spanish) https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/media/resources/index.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click on the "Spanish" tab • Scroll to the first video

* All informational materials developed by the CDC.

Thank you for all that you do to improve the health of Maryland children, and for your consideration of joining this very important effort to prevent cancer by increasing the uptake of the HPV vaccination.

Howard M. Haft, MD, MMM, CPE, FACPE
 Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services
 Maryland Department of Health