

# New Brand of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine will be used as of September 2017

**Vaccines have saved more lives in Canada in the last 60 years than any other medical intervention. Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause diseases.**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Gardasil™ brand of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine was used for provincial HPV immunization program since 2008. Gardasil™ was the only HPV vaccine licensed at the time, had an excellent safety profile, and contained 4 HPV strains to prevent genital warts, and cervical and vaginal cancers in females.

**As of September 1, 2017, the Gardasil 9™ brand of HPV vaccine will replace Gardasil™.** It is produced by the same manufacturer (Merck Frosst) and contains 9 HPV types that prevent mouth, nose, throat, anal, cervical, vaginal, and penile cancers in addition to genital warts. Several provinces in Canada switched to using Gardasil 9™ for their HPV immunization programs in 2016. Gardasil 9™ has a similar safety profile to Gardasil™ and there are no indications of serious adverse events or unexpected side effects linked to it. However, there is a slightly higher chance of a temporary injection site reaction (redness, pain) with Gardasil 9™ compared to Gardasil™.

In order for your child/this student to complete their HPV vaccine series, you need to consent for your child/this student to receive Gardasil 9™. Please review the attached HPV immunization fact sheet, complete the General School Consent form, and have it returned to the school as soon as possible.

If you want more information about this product switch, contact your local public health office or school nurse.

## Mature Minor Consent

It is recommended that parents/guardians discuss consent for immunization with their children. Efforts are first made to get parental/guardian consent for immunizations. However, children at least 13 years of age up to and including 17 years of age, who are able to understand the benefits and possible reactions for each vaccine and the risks of not getting immunized, can legally consent to or refuse immunizations in Saskatchewan by providing mature minor informed consent to a healthcare provider.