

September 30th 2009.

Dear Parent

Re: HPV Vaccination Programme

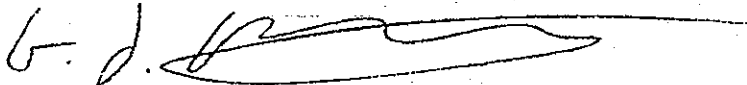
You may be aware of the recent case in the media this week of the unfortunate death of a young girl in Coventry shortly after having had a HPV vaccination. At the present time we do not know the cause of the death and investigations are continuing. However early indications suggest that the vaccination was highly unlikely to have been the cause.

The HPV vaccination programme was introduced last year to protect girls from developing cervical cancer later in life. There are 3000 cases of cervical cancer resulting in over 1000 deaths each year. Receiving the vaccination will protect girls from two types of the human papillomavirus (HPV) that cause 70% of cervical cancers.

It would therefore be a real tragedy if worries arising from the case in Coventry resulted in people deciding to withdraw their daughters from the HPV vaccination programme. Over the coming year we intend to vaccinate all girls between the age of 12 and 18 who have so far not been offered the vaccination and I would therefore encourage you and your daughter to receive the vaccination as planned.

If you require further details before your child receives her vaccination, please contact the HPV Helpline on 0845 602 3303 or www.nhs.uk/hpv.

Yours sincerely, —



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