



REPORT TO

## REGULAR BOARD

# EXPANSION OF HPV VACCINATION PROGRAM

*"Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers."*  
3 John 1:2

| Created, Draft   | First Tabling   | Review                                      |
|--|-----------------|---|
| August 22, 2016  | August 25, 2016 | <a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a> |
| D. Koenig, Superintendent of Curriculum and Accountability |                 |   |

## INFORMATION REPORT

### Vision:

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

### Mission:

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity*



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Associate Director of Academic Affairs

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Executive Superintendent of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer

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## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Ontario Government has expanded the human papillomavirus (HPV) immunization program to include all students in grade 7. To support the transition of the program to all Grade 7 students, girls who are starting in Grade 8 in September 2016 are also eligible to receive human papillomavirus vaccine through the school based clinics. A new letter from the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario has been sent to all Directors of Education of Catholic Boards to be sent home with the information package that parents receive concerning the program (Appendix A).

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. This information report is intended to inform the Board of Trustees regarding the expansion of the HPV vaccine to all grade 7 students commencing in September 2016.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. Since 2007, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has offered the free HPV vaccine to girls in Grade 8 through school-based clinics.
2. Staff were directed by Trustees to send out the letter from the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario regarding the HPV vaccination and additional information regarding websites that parents could access for information regarding the HPV vaccination (Appendix B).
3. All elementary schools include the letter from the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and the additional information regarding the HPV vaccine with the Toronto Public Health information package sent home by the school.
4. To support the transition of the program to Grade 7, girls who are starting Grade 8 in September 2016 are also eligible to receive the human papillomavirus vaccine through school based clinics.
5. The information sent by Toronto Public Health through the schools include a Vaccine Fact Sheets (Appendix C), Dear Parent letter (Appendix D), Dear Principal Letter (Appendix E) and a Grade 7 Teacher's Package (Appendix F).

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

1. HPV infection is very common. Some of the over 100 strains of infection can lead to cancer of the cervix and other cancers of the genitals or head and neck.
2. The infection is spread by intimate skin to skin contact. It can also spread from an infected mother to her baby during birth.
3. The vaccine is highly effective in preventing against infection caused by strains 6, 11, 16 and 18 of the HPV.
4. The Gardisal vaccine has been licensed by Health Canada since 2006. In 2015, a two-dose schedule was approved for youth 9 to 13 years of age. The vaccine is most effective in this age group.
5. The vaccine is safe, effective and well tolerated. Reactions are usually mild and go away within a few days. Public health nurses observe students for 15 minutes following vaccination to monitor for any reactions.

## **E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.