

**Dear Parent**

**Re: Human Papilloma Vaccination (HPV) programme in schools.**

Following the sad death of a 14 year old this week who received the HPV vaccine in Coventry, we are writing to inform you how this has affected the HPV programme locally.

The preliminary investigation has revealed that the girl had a rare underlying medical condition which was the likely cause of death. Even though this is the case, the manufacturers of the vaccine have asked that all doses of the vaccine from the same batch are returned to the manufacturer as an additional precautionary measure.

As a result of these events the programme of vaccinations in schools in South Gloucestershire and Bristol has been disrupted this week. We plan to restart the local programme on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2009. In those schools where a vaccination session was cancelled we will be making arrangements for an alternative date and you will be contacted with the new date in due course.

Parents and girls in South Gloucestershire and Bristol can be reassured that since the beginning of this term there have been no local reports of serious adverse reactions to this vaccine. As with any vaccine the common symptoms of soreness around the injection site, nausea and dizziness have been reported.

The Cervarix vaccine has passed through rigorous testing and has a strong safety record. Several million doses have been given around the world, and more than 1.4 million doses have been given to girls in the UK. Parents and young people can find more information on the HPV vaccination by visiting [www.immunisation.nhs.uk](http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk) .

NHS South Gloucestershire and the School Health Nursing Service are committed to this important Public Health vaccination programme and hope that you will be reassured that the protection of girls from HPV infection, and the safety of our vaccination programme are our priorities.



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