



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HPV Vaccine

Contact: *Angela Videto*
Phone Number: **517-768-2129**
Email address: avideto@co.jackson.mi.us

JACKSON COUNTY, MI July 12, 2016 – What if you could protect your child from getting cancer in the future? You can. The HPV (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine) is a safe and effective way to prevent cervical cancer and many other cancers in both women and men. While the vaccine can be given up to age 26, it is most effective when it is given at the age of 11 or 12. This is because most children at this age have not been exposed to the HPV virus and the vaccine produces a greater immune response at this age, giving them greater protection in the future.

“HPV is very common. In fact, most men and women will contract at least one type of HPV in their lifetime and since there are often no symptoms, most of them will not know that they have it,” said Angela Videto, Director of Personal and Preventative Health. There are no cures for HPV infection, only treatments for the health issues the virus may cause. Unfortunately some treatments of the abnormal cells of the cervix resulting from HPV, such as colposcopy and LEEP, can have negative consequences on future pregnancies. In some cases the body will naturally fight off the infection, but in other cases serious complications can occur, such as cancer and genital warts. Over 79 million Americans are infected with HPV, and 14 million more become infected each year. Of these, half of new cases occur in young adults between the ages of 15 and 24.

You can reduce the risk of your child getting cancer later in life by getting them the HPV vaccine now. The vaccine is a three dose series that is recommended for boys and girls beginning at age 11 or 12. HPV vaccination has been studied carefully and continues to be monitored by the CDC and the FDA. Study after study continues to show that HPV vaccines are safe and effective.

Contact your health care provider to discuss the benefits of the HPV vaccine for your child. If you are concerned with the cost of shots, the Jackson County Health Department can help. Children who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, Native American or Alaska native may be eligible for free or low-cost shots through the Immunization Clinic at the Jackson County Health Department. For additional information or to see if your child shots are up-to-date, contact the Immunization Clinic at (517) 788-4468.

For more information on the HPV vaccine, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/>

http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2955_2975_65691---,00.html

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/HPVBrochure_490938_7.pdf

###