

From: McKinney, Jodie HLTH:EX [<mailto:Jodie.McKinney@gov.bc.ca>] **On Behalf Of** O'Briain, Warren W HLTH:EX

Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 12:37 PM

To: Marcie Summers

Cc: Evin Jones; Marcie Summers; Darren Lauscher; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; O'Briain, Warren W HLTH:EX; McGowan, Gina HLTH:EX; XT:Ogilvie, Gina HLTH:IN; jmontaner@cfenet.ubc.ca; XT:Buchner, Chris HLTH:IN; michael.spowart@phac-aspc.gc.ca; greg@checkhimout.ca; rmarchand@telus.net; jesseb@youthco.org; rossh@positivelivingbc.org; brianc@aidsvancouver.org; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Tyndall, Dr. Mark HLTH:IN; Evan.Adams@fnha.ca

Subject: RE: Broadening the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination Program in BC

Cliff #1026806

Dear Marcie and Darren:

Thank you for your letter to the Minister of Health dated January 14, 2015, regarding HPV vaccination in BC. I am happy to respond on the Minister's behalf.

The Ministry of Health receives recommendations and advice regarding changes to the Province's publicly-funded immunization schedule from the BC Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee (the Committee), which is chaired by the Provincial Health Officer. The Committee conducts ongoing scientific examination of vaccines recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) in the context of BC's burden of disease, vaccine cost effectiveness, feasibility of delivery, public acceptability and other factors, prior to making recommendations to government.

When BC's HPV vaccine program for school-aged girls was implemented in 2008, Gardasil® was not approved for use in males. After being approved by Health Canada, NACI updated their recommendations in 2012 to include that Gardasil® be offered to males aged 9 to 26 and males aged 9 and older who are considered at high-risk for acquiring HPV-related illness (i.e., gay men and other men who have sex with men).

Soon after the NACI recommendation, the Committee considered the evidence to support a universal HPV vaccine program for school-aged boys and a targeted HPV vaccine program for high risk males. The Committee has since recommended the Ministry consider expanding the publicly-funded HPV vaccination program to include school-aged boys and MSM.

Currently, the Ministry of Health is in the preliminary stages of reviewing the Committee's HPV vaccine recommendations as well as other recommended vaccine programs that could have great benefit to British Columbians.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Warren O'Briain
Executive Director
Population and Public Health Division