

RESOLUTION

Subject: Proposal for the Kentucky Medical Association to Reaffirm Support for the HPV Vaccination

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, the KMA has supported the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine coverage as a standard policy benefit in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the KMA has supported adding the HPV vaccine to the current list of school-based required vaccinations for the recommended age groups in 2012; and

WHEREAS, HPV is the most common viral sexually transmitted infection in the United States¹; and

WHEREAS, the HPV vaccine is safe, effective, and recommended for ages 9 to 45 years old by leading health organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Cancer Society (ACS), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)²; and

WHEREAS, HPV is the cause of 91% of cervical cancers as well as other types of cancers such as vaginal (75%), oropharyngeal (70%), penile cancers (60%)³; and

WHEREAS, these cancers are preventable with HPV vaccination, so increasing HPV vaccination rates can significantly reduce the burden of HPV-related diseases and cancers, thereby saving lives and reducing long-term healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, in Kentucky, only 57% of adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17 have received the HPV vaccine, reflecting one of the lowest vaccination rates in the country³; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has one of the highest rates of new cases of cervical cancer at 9.6 cases per 100,000 women annually³; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky had the highest incidence of cervical cancer of all U.S. states from 2015 to 2019⁴; and

WHEREAS, the death rate from cervical cancer in Appalachian Kentucky is twice that of the national rate in 2023⁴; and

WHEREAS, the HPV vaccine is 97% effective in preventing cervical cancer and almost 100% effective in preventing external genital warts²; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the National Cancer Institute published findings from a Scottish study showing no cases of invasive cervical cancer recorded in women immunized in 2008 at 12 or 13 years of age irrespective of the number of HPV vaccine doses given⁵; and

WHEREAS, in a recent Lancet study, Australia is set to be the first country to eliminate cervical

cancer as a public health problem, as early as 2028⁶; and

WHEREAS, the KMA is committed to promoting public health initiatives that prevent disease and protect the well-being of the citizens of Kentucky; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the KMA fully endorses and supports the promotion of HPV vaccination as a critical public health measure; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA encourages healthcare providers across Kentucky to strongly recommend and offer the HPV vaccine to all eligible patients, including adolescents and young adults; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA will actively collaborate with public health agencies, educational institutions, community organizations, and other stakeholders to implement strategies aimed at increasing HPV vaccination rates, such as education campaigns, provider training, and access to vaccination services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA will continue to monitor HPV vaccination rates and outcomes in Kentucky and take further action as needed to ensure that all individuals have access to this life-saving vaccine; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA will continue to encourage state lawmakers to change the HPV vaccine status from recommended to required on the current school-based list of vaccinations.

References

1. "Sexually Transmitted Infections." Cleveland Clinic, 03 Feb. 2023, <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/9138-sexually-transmitted-diseases--infections-stds--stis>
2. "HPV Vaccination Recommendations," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 16 Nov. 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hpv/hcp/recommendations.html#:~:text=HPV%20vaccines%20are%20very%20safe,far%20outweigh%20the%20potential%20risks.>
3. Goins, Jenny. "Preventing HPV-Attributable Cancers in Kentucky," 7 July. 2023. <https://khcollaborative.org/preventing-hpv-attributable-cancers-in-kentucky/#:~:text=This%20is%20certainly%20the%20case,cases%20per%20100%2C000%20women%20annually.n>
4. "Kentucky and Indiana Lead Nation in Advanced Cervical Cancer Fatalities," Planned Parenthood. 6 Dec. 2023, <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-great-northwest-hawaii-alaska-indiana-kentuck/press/kentucky-and-indiana-lead-nation-in-advanced-cervical-cancer-fatalities#:~:text=Alarming%2C%20Kentucky%20had%20the%20highest,that%20of%20the%20national%20rate>
5. Palmer, Tim, Kavanaugh, Kimberely, "Invasive cervical cancer incidence following bivalent human papillomavirus vaccination: a population-based observational study of age at immunization, dose, and deprivation." *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Volume 116, Issue 6, June 2024, Pages 857–865, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djad263>
6. Hall, Michaela, Simms, Kate. "The projected time frame until cervical cancer elimination in Australia: a modelling study," *The Lancet*. 02 Oct. 2018, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(18\)30183-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(18)30183-X)