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Our Ref: HSS(MD)26/2008

Date: 25 July 2008

**HSS (MD) 26/2008**

Dear Colleague

**INTRODUCTION OF HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE INTO THE CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME**

You will be aware that the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety is introducing a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation programme, which will commence in September 2008. HPV immunisation will be offered routinely to all 12 to 13 year old girls (school year 9) to protect them against their future risk of cervical cancer. For information, refer to Chief professionals' letter HSS (MD) 15/2008 and letter HSS (MD) 16/2008.

A two-year catch-up campaign will start from the beginning of the 2009/2010 school year for all girls aged up to 18 years. Further information on the catch-up campaign will follow the implementation of the routine programme.

An extension to the HPV programme is being introduced in 2008, for one year to cover the 17-18 year old girls who would be missed from the catch-up programme. This programme will be delivered through primary care.

This information pack has been developed to support health professionals in the delivery of this campaign. This information and promotional materials can also be found at [www.helpprotectyourself.info](http://www.helpprotectyourself.info).

The Childhood Immunisation Programme in Northern Ireland has been extremely successful over the years and our uptake rates for immunisations in childhood are among the highest in the UK. We hope you find these resources useful and we would like to thank you for your continuing work on the childhood immunisation programme.

Yours sincerely

**Dr M McBride**  
Chief Medical Officer

**Dr N Morrow**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

**Mr M Bradley**  
Chief Nursing Officer

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