

From the Chief Medical Officer  
Dr Michael McBride



Department of

## Health, Social Services and Public Safety

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

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HSS(MD) 41/2009

Chief Executives, HSC Board / Public Health Agency  
Chief Executives, HSC Trusts  
Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency (*for onward distribution to Consultants in Communicable Disease Control, Regional Epidemiologists*)  
Assistant Director Health Protection, Public Health Agency  
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency  
Assistant Director Pharmacy and Medicines Management, HSC Board  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services, HSC Trusts  
Director of Primary Care, HSC Board  
Directors of Children's Services  
GP Medical Advisers, HSC Board  
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to Consultant Paediatricians, School Health Doctors, A&E Physicians, Microbiologists, Virologists*).  
Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to HPV Immunisation Leads, all School Nurses, and Health Visitors*)  
All General Practitioners (*for onward distribution to practice staff including practice nurses*)  
All Community Pharmacists  
Medical Director, RQIA  
Dr P Jackson, Chair, Regional Immunisation Committee  
Dr J Mairs, Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service  
Dr P Rooney, NIPHL  
Regional Medicines Information Service

Your Ref:

Our Ref: HSS(MD) 41/2009

Date: 29 September 2009

Dear Colleague

### **CERVARIX HPV VACCINE: Quarantine of Batch No: AHPVA043BB**

You will have heard of the tragic news that a 14-year-old girl was taken ill at a school in Coventry shortly after receiving the HPV vaccine, and later died. No link can be made between the death and the vaccine until all the facts are known and a post-mortem takes place.

As a purely precautionary measure, it is important that all stocks of Cervarix vaccine from the above batch are quarantined until the above incident has been fully investigated. This needs to be done with immediate effect. This action is supported by the MHRA.

For information Northern Ireland received 10, 806 doses of this batch in May 2009. All of this stock has been issued to Trust pharmacies and we have requested Trusts to quarantine this

