



GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2021

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS URGED TO ACT NOW TO PROTECT YOUNG GIRLS AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER LATER IN LIFE

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) urges parents and guardians of school girls that are in Grade 5 or nine years and above to sign consent forms to permit school health nurses to administer the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV).

The GDoH wishes to assure parents that the consent forms are meant for school health programme and not for COVID-19 vaccination programme.

It has been noted that some parents and guardians have not signed or returned the consent forms to school due to fear that they will also be used to administer COVID-19 vaccines on learners.

The HPV vaccine is administered on young girls in primary schools to help prevent infection and protect against human papillomavirus type 16 and 18 that can cause cervical cancer later in life.

The HPV second dose campaign started in September and will continue until 29 October 2021.

Those who had already signed a consent form at the beginning of the year do not have to sign the consent form again. That consent form is valid for the whole year and will be used during the second round of HPV campaign including for the provision of routine school health screening services.

School health programme

As part of school health programme, the GDoH in partnership with Gauteng Department of Education will also conduct the deworming campaign for the whole of October 2021.

The campaign aims to protect learners from worm infestations and improving their nutritional status. It targets all boys and girls who are 5 to 14 years-old in all public primary schools from grade R to grade 7.

The GDoH will also provide other services including eye health screening and oral assessments during the National School Health Week.

School health coordinators together with optometrists and oral health teams will be visiting selected various public primary schools in the province. The GDoH encourages parents to sign and return the consent forms to school for their children to be immunised and screened.

Ends/

For more information, contact Kwara Kekana, Spokesperson of Gauteng MEC for Health: Gauteng Department of Health on 082 737 7227 or mediaenquiries.@gauteng.gov.za.

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