

## WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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**Title:** Changes to the vaccine for the HPV immunisation programme

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**For Action by:**

Immunisation Leads, Health Boards/Trusts  
School nurses, Health Boards/Trusts  
Chief Executives, Health Boards/Trusts  
Medical Directors, Health Boards/Trusts  
Nurse Executive Directors, Health Boards/Trusts  
Directors of Public Health, Health Boards  
Chief Executive, Public Health Wales  
Executive Director of Public Health Services, Public Health Wales  
Nurse Director, Public Health Wales  
Head Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme, Public Health Wales  
NHS Wales Informatics Service

**For information to:**

Directors of Workforce and Organisational Development  
Finance Directors  
Health Boards/Trusts  
Directors of Primary, Community and Mental Health, Health Boards  
Chief Pharmacists, Health Boards/Trusts  
Chief Executive, Welsh Local Government Association  
Director of Planning, NHS Delivery Unit  
General Practitioners

**Sender:**

Sir Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales

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Dear Colleague,

This letter provides information on the recently announced changes to the human papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation programme. This letter is aimed at health professionals who are responsible for delivering the programme. I encourage you to share this information with all those who are involved in delivering the national HPV vaccination programme in your area.

Key points about the changes to the programme:

#### Change to the vaccine schedule

The Gardasil®9 vaccine will be provided for the following schedules of the HPV programme:

- a one-dose schedule for the routine adolescent programme and MSM programme before the 25th birthday
- a 2-dose schedule from the age of 25 in the MSM programme
- a 3-dose schedule for individuals who are immunosuppressed and those known to be HIV-positive

The UK Health Security Agency will continue to supply vaccine for the HPV programme in the usual way.

**It is important to note that we do not expect the one dose schedule to commence before the 2023/24 academic year. Until the one dose schedule commences, the current 2 dose schedule will remain in place. Further communications will be issued once decisions have been made on the timing of the changes.**

#### Eligibility

There is no change to the eligibility criteria for this vaccine. The change to one dose affects the adolescent and MSM before their 25th birthday parts of the HPV programme only.

As the adolescent programme is a school-based programme, there will need to be clear communication with parents and eligible adolescents, including on the effectiveness evidence, and robust arrangements in place to ensure the consent process is effective during the transition period.

Advice and guidance on the HPV vaccination programme was recently provided in WHC/2022/15. Until further instruction, the programme will remain 'business as usual'.

I would like to take this opportunity again, to thank everyone involved for their hard work to continue to deliver the HPV immunisation programme during what continues to be a challenging time for our services.

Yours sincerely,



**Sir Frank Atherton**

**Chief Medical Officer / Medical Director NHS Wales**

