



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH  
Acting State Health Commissioner

Department of Health  
P O BOX 2448  
RICHMOND, VA 23218

TTY 7-1-1 OR  
1-800-828-1120

March 9, 2022

Dear Parents of Rising Seventh Graders:

As the Virginia Acting State Health Commissioner and a parent, I value the many decisions you make every day to protect your children's health. In that vein, I'm sharing information about the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. This vaccine prevents infection with the virus that causes six types of cancer, including most cases of cervical cancer. With wide use of this vaccine we can wipe out an entire class of cancer in women in a generation, while reducing the need for diagnostic procedures.

The Virginia Department of Health, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommend this vaccine for children at age 11 or 12. Giving the vaccine at this age is the best defense against HPV infection. I have included our HPV poster; for more information, please visit our website at [www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/).

As your child grows, it is important to schedule a health check-up for them every year. HPV, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), and Meningococcal vaccines are required for children in Virginia schools between 11 and 12 years of age, that is, before going into the 7th grade.

As a parent or guardian, you have the right to decide if your child receives the HPV vaccine. I encourage you to discuss any questions you may have with your healthcare provider. Please remember to bring your child's vaccine record to his or her school.

Should you have any questions please contact Janaye Oliver, Adolescent Immunization Coordinator at the Virginia Department of Health, by telephone at (804) 864-8073 or by email at [Janaye.Oliver@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Janaye.Oliver@vdh.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH  
Acting State Health Commissioner