SUBJECT: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Immunization Program  BOH07047
(City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Human Papillomavirus vaccine program for eligible grade 8 female students which is funded by the Provincial Government be approved for implementation during the 2007/2008 school year as outlined in Report BOH07047.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On August 2, 2007 the Ontario Ministry of Health announced funding for a new Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. This vaccine will be administered free of charge to all grade 8 female students. This is a voluntary program, with approximately 3500 female students in Hamilton eligible for the vaccine during the 2007/08. The program will be offered on three separate days spread over the school year. To increase efficiency, these immunizations will be done on the same days Public Health Services Immunization teams are in the schools immunizing eligible grade 7 students with the Hepatitis B and Meningococcal C vaccines. Public Health Services will be funded $8.50 for each dose of vaccine delivered.
BACKGROUND:

HPV is a common virus that affects the genital areas of men and women, causing both genital warts and cervical cancer. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, it is estimated that 1,350 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed in Canada in 2007. Overall, it is estimated that 1 in 138 Canadian women will develop cervical cancer in their lifetime and 400 will die each year.

The HPV vaccine, Gardasil, being used in this program provides protection against the four types of HPV viruses that are most commonly associated with genital warts and cervical cancer. HPV types 16 and 18 cause approximately 70% of all cervical cancers and types 6 and 11 cause 90% of genital warts.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

Since HPV is spread by sexual touching and activity, the HPV vaccine is recommended to be given prior to the onset of sexual activity. HPV vaccine is being offered to grade 8 female students at a time when they have been exposed to the education of the importance of being protected from sexually transmitted diseases and prior to them being sexually active. HPV vaccine does not replace the need for ongoing education and screening programs regarding women’s health issues, such as regular breast and cervical screening.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care has recommended the HPV vaccination program to be delivered primarily in schools by Public Health staff. The decision to provide the vaccine to physicians' offices will be done on a case by case basis.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care will fund health units $8.50 per dose given, which will cover the costs to implement the program provided uptake of the vaccine by eligible students is good. There is a very small risk of a budgetary shortfall if uptake is poor. If this occurs, continuation of the program in subsequent years will be reviewed.

This revenue will be used to cover the cost of staffing, equipment and supplies and possible renovations to accommodate the additional refrigerators needed to store the vaccine. Additional temporary staffing will be hired to assist the existing seven FTE registered nurses and two FTE registered practical nurses in the delivery of this program. Current work assignments will be adjusted to accommodate planning and implementation of this new program.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:
This program is carried out under the Mandatory Programs and Services Guidelines as part of the requirement to provide and promote publicly funded vaccines.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

Consultation is ongoing with all city of Hamilton schools that have grade 8 students. Materials proposed for distribution to parents and students are currently being reviewed by school officials.

**CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:**

The HPV program supports the city of Hamilton’s commitment to improve the health of our citizens.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☒ Yes ☐ No
Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☒ No

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☒ Yes ☐ No
While the economic benefit of this vaccine has yet to be fully proven, it is likely to have a positive impact through decreased utilization of health care resources and improved quality of life.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☒ Yes ☐ No