



www.hugyourkids.org

Vaccinating kids against HPV saves lives!



Calgaryhpv@gmail.com
July 27, 2012

By Email, Confirmation Copy to Follow
Msgr. Patrick Powers, P.H.
General Secretary
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
2500 Don Reid Drive
Ottawa Ontario K1H 2J2

Dear Msgr. Powers

We are writing to you today to ask respectfully for clarification on Canadian Catholic teaching regarding the permissibility of in-school vaccination programs in publicly funded Catholic Schools, and in particular, public health vaccinations against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

In the three provinces that publicly fund Catholic schools, most Catholic school districts welcome public health nurses to vaccinate against HPV. They are welcome in all but one Catholic school district in Ontario, in all school districts in Saskatchewan and in half of the Alberta school districts.

As strong believers in the dignity of the human person, the common good, and our collective duty to focus on the most vulnerable among us, we seek your advice regarding whether there is inconsistency between in-school administration of the HPV vaccine and Catholic teaching. You may know that the diseases, suffering and death to which HPV can lead affect people of lower socio-economic status in disproportionately high numbers. Children of the lowest socio-economic status are also more likely to receive the vaccine in schools, and much less likely to receive it in the community.

We are writing to ask you to intervene in Alberta, and to clarify the Canadian Conference's position so that public health nurses can give vaccinations in schools to help children avoid life-long and sometimes fatal infectious disease.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Juliet Guichon, Mark Joffe, Keri Keenan, Bruno Masquillier, Heather Meyer, Cory Miller, Geoff Pradella, Karen Thomas,

For HPV Calgary