



Vaccinating kids against HPV saves lives!



## News Release

November 29, 2011

# HPV Calgary celebrates school doors opening to lifesaving vaccinations

*Citizens' group requests Alberta Health Services' envelope includes just the facts*

A group of Calgary doctors and concerned citizens is pleased that the Calgary Catholic School Board of Trustees has voted to open school doors for public health nurses to give HPV vaccinations.

"We are thrilled that 2,000 children in Calgary will now have easy access to this life-saving vaccine each year," says **Dr. Ian Mitchell, a professor of paediatrics and bioethicist at the University of Calgary**. "We are also respectfully asking the Board to keep the Alberta Health Services information packet focused on the vaccine information and consent form. Public health physicians should be allowed to communicate privately with families about health matters without any interference from religious leaders."

"The Alberta Health Services envelope is like a closed door meeting between physician and patient. Physicians have a legal duty to communicate the risks and benefits of proposed treatment in a clear manner for people who are deciding on their own medical care," says **Juliet Guichon, PhD, a legal scholar and professor of community health sciences at the University of Calgary**. "It is inappropriate for anyone to come between a physician and patient when the discussion is about what's best for health."

In 2008, an episcopal letter was included in vaccination information packets sent home to parents in Calgary Catholic schools, implying that the HPV vaccine is unsafe, ineffective and promotes promiscuity. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and experts at the University of Calgary have lamented the misinformation that has circulated about the HPV vaccine and encouraged parents to sign the consent form and vaccinate their children to help prevent cancers caused by HPV.

Schools across Canada opened their doors to HPV vaccinations for the past 4 years, with these exceptions: Catholic Boards in Yellowknife, the Ontario Region of Halton and eight school districts in Alberta have banned the vaccine: Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Christ the Redeemer (south of Calgary), St. Thomas Aquinas (south of Edmonton), Elk Island (east of Edmonton), Lakeland (northeast of the Edmonton), and Grande Prairie. Edmonton school trustees have allowed HPV vaccinations in Edmonton Catholic schools.

For more information: visit <http://hugyourkids.org>

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