



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization

42-09 28th Street, CN21
Queens, NY 11101-4132

October 28, 2016

Dear Colleague:

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on October 19, 2016 and voted to revise its 9-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (9vHPV [Gardasil 9[®] Merck]) recommendations. Pre-teens and teens who initiate the vaccine series before their 15th birthday need only 2 doses of vaccine if at least 5 months have elapsed between the first and second doses.

The ACIP made this recommendation after a thorough review of available evidence from clinical trials showing two doses of HPV vaccine in younger adolescents (aged 9-14 years) produced an immune response higher than the response in young adults (aged 16-26 years) who received three doses. The recommended interval for the 2-dose series is 6-12 months; the minimal interval is 5 months. This new schedule applies only to those adolescents initiating the series with 9vHPV between 9 through 14 years of age. If the series was begun at age 15 years or older, then the 3-dose schedule—at 0, 1-2, and 6 months—should be administered. Only 9vHPV vaccine will be available in the United States by the end of the year. If a person has started the vaccine series with either the bivalent or quadrivalent HPV vaccine, they can complete the series with 9vHPV.

Those adolescents who have already received 2 doses of 9vHPV at least 5 months apart are now considered to be complete for the series. If the interval between those 2 doses is less than 5 months, then a third dose is still necessary. The Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) decision support will be updated in the near future.

CIR data reveal that as of June 30, 2016, HPV series completion rates in New York City (NYC) are at 48.5% for females and 40.1% for males. These rates are well below the Healthy People 2020 target of 80%. To increase coverage, we remind you to use the reminder/recall functions, including text-messaging, available through the CIR to identify patients who have not initiated or who have not completed the HPV vaccine series.

For questions on the HPV vaccine schedule or any other vaccine-related issue, please contact (347) 396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. Thank you for keeping NYC children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc