



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DIRECTORATE: SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION SERVICE Chief Directorate: Social Enrichment Programmes

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TO : DEPUTY DIRECTORS- GENERAL
: CHIEF DIRECTORS
: DISTRICT & HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS
: CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS: SNES & CIRCUIT MANAGEMENT
: PRINCIPALS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
: PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC ORDINARY AND PUBLIC SPECIAL SCHOOLS
: SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES & PARENTS

KZN CIRCULAR NO 118 OF 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATION CAMPAIGN DATES AND RELATED SCHOOL-BASED INTERVENTIONS IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

1. The National Department of Basic Education received a letter from National Department of Health, informing the Department of the changes in the implementation of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Programme. These include the roll-out of: 1) The HPV Vaccination Programme of girls aged 9-15 years to Independent Schools and 2) the multi-age cohort catch-up programme for learners in public schools who have missed vaccination over the years, including the current calendar year. The HPV Vaccination is implemented as a component of the 2012 Integrated School Health Policy.
2. Previously, the HPV Vaccination was implemented in all public schools targeting Grade 5 girls. In January 2024, the Department of Health approved the National Advisory Group on Immunisation (NAGI)'s recommendation to switch from a two-dose HPV Vaccination schedule to a single-dose schedule and to expand vaccination to all eligible girls under 15 years. This decision was made in order to align with the World Health Organization's Strategy on the Elimination of Cervical Cancer which recommends that countries vaccinate 90% of girls aged 9-15 years against HPV and states that a single-dose schedule of the HPV vaccine is sufficient for this purpose.
3. The multi-age cohort catch-up vaccination programme for girls in public schools as well as Td Vaccination for Grade 5 boys and girls will commence in October 2024.
4. The HPV vaccination Programme of girls aged 9-15 years in Independent Schools will commence in October 2024.
5. For the above-mentioned ISHP school-based interventions to be implemented successfully, the districts, schools and parents are required to do the following:
 - a) Districts should conduct advocacy with the schools, school governing bodies and parents regarding the provision of these health services for learners to address any concerns that



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parents may have. They must also ensure that informed consent forms for learners to receive health services are distributed to all schools timeously.

- b) School principals should ensure that the informed parental consent forms are distributed to all parents and that parents are encouraged to sign and return them to school giving permission for their children to receive health services. The consent forms are valid for ONE year and ideally parents/legal guardians/caregivers should sign them at the beginning of each academic year.
6. School principals should further ensure that signed consent forms are safely kept at the school and readily available for the School Health Teams visiting the schools. Learners without the signed consent forms will not receive these essential health services.
7. Logistical arrangements, consent forms for vaccination, proper planning and scheduling at the school level should be prioritized to ensure that teaching and learning are not disrupted.
8. The contents of this circular should be brought to the attention of all parties concerned.

MR. G.N. NGCOBO

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION

11/10/24

DATE