

Official Statement from IPVS regarding the resumption of the Japanese Ministry of Health officially promoting HPV vaccination in Japan

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The International Papillomavirus Society (IPVS) commends the Japanese Ministry of Health on its recent decision to resume **including vaccination against the human papillomavirus (HPV) for girls aged 12-16 among its official recommendations.**

HPV is the proven cause of cervical cancer and leads to many preventable deaths each year in Japan and around the world. HPV vaccination is a principle means of protecting girls from infection of the HPV and consequently, in rare instances, developing cervical cancer. Hundreds of millions of young girls globally have been vaccinated against HPV since it was introduced in 2006, providing a significant body of solid evidence that the HPV vaccine is both safe and effective. IPVS President Prof. Suzanne Garland comments, "IPVS is pleased to see that the Japanese Ministry of Health is reformulating their public policy decisions about HPV vaccination based on the science."

It is wonderful news that, in addition to young girls aged 12-16 being offered HPV vaccination, young women aged 17-25 will also be offered the HPV vaccine for the coming three years in an effort to provide the benefit of HPV vaccination to those who missed the opportunity between 2013 and 2022 when it was not recommended.