

Dear Colleague

**Re: Human Papilloma Vaccination (HPV) programme in schools**

You may be aware of the sad news of the death of a 14-year-old girl in the Coventry area who was taken ill at school shortly after receiving the HPV vaccine, and later died.

The preliminary post mortem results have revealed a rare serious underlying medical condition which was likely to have caused the death. The indications are that it was most unlikely that the HPV vaccination was the cause of death.

As a precautionary measure vaccine stocks from the batch used in Coventry have been withdrawn. None of this stock was in circulation in Bath and North East Somerset.

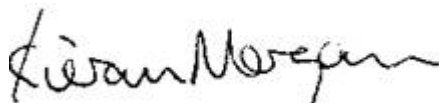
In line with national guidance from the Department of Health, NHS Bath and North East Somerset (NHS B&NES) will continue to offer the HPV vaccination to girls and young women in our area.

It is important to remember that 1.4 million doses of HPV vaccine has been administered as part of this programme and tests have shown the vaccine to be extremely safe.

The vaccination programme against cervical cancer gives us the opportunity to help prevent a very serious disease that affects over 3,000 women every year in the UK and causes over 1,000 deaths.

There is information about the HPV vaccine on the national immunisation website at [www.immunisation.nhs.uk](http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk). If you have a specific query you can speak to a member of the immunisation team on 01225 831756.

Yours faithfully



Dr Kieran Morgan, Joint Director of Public Health  
NHS Bath and North East Somerset and Council