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Partnering for Cancer Prevention

HPV Vaccine Awareness at Augusta Back-to-School Day

Eau Claire, WI, August 31, 2017 – The Eau Claire City-County Health Department and Prevea Augusta Health Center are partnering to prevent cancer. Dr. Crystal Lalonde and Tammy Raeder, Public Health Nurse, will be at Augusta Back-to-School Day on September 1. They will explain how the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine can prevent cancer. They will answer parents' and students' questions about HPV and the HPV vaccine. There will be games to play, prizes to win, and facts to learn!

HPV is a very common virus. Nearly 1 in 4 people in the United States are currently infected. There are several types of HPV. HPV is spread through close skin-to-skin or sexual contact. HPV is so common that nearly everyone will get some type of HPV in their lives. It can be passed person to person when an infected person has no signs or symptoms.

In most cases, HPV goes away on its own and does not cause health problems. But when it does not go away, it can cause cancer. Both men and women can get cancer of the mouth, throat, anus, and rectum. Men can also get cancer of the penis. In women, HPV infections can cause cancer of the cervix and vagina.

A vaccine to prevent the types of HPV most likely to cause cancer is available for preteens and teens. It is recommended for boys and girls beginning at age 11 or 12. In Augusta, only 32% of youth are fully vaccinated for HPV. "We need to work together to protect our youth with this life-saving vaccine," states Tammy Raeder, RN. "Research shows that the HPV vaccine can prevent more than 90% of the cancers caused by HPV," adds Dr. Lalonde, "It's exciting to have a vaccine that can prevent certain types of cancer."



For more information on the HPV vaccine, see <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hpv>

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