North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
301 North Wilmington Street ▪ Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
June St. Clair Atkinson, Superintendent

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health ▪ 1931 Mail Service Center ▪ Raleigh, NC 27699-1931
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary ▪ Leah Devlin, DDS, MPH, State Health Director

Michael F. Easley, Governor

July 16, 2007

Dear LEA Superintendents and Charter School Directors:

HPV Vaccine Information

Senate Bill 260, previously referred to as "Garrett's Law," mandates that at the beginning of every school year local boards of education shall ensure that schools provide parents and guardians with information about meningococcal meningitis and influenza diseases and their vaccines. **Beginning in July 2007, information about Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and the HPV vaccine will also be provided to parents and guardians of students in grades 5-12 at the beginning of every school year.** Senate Bill 260 states that the Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction shall make available sample educational materials that can be provided to parents and guardians. The enclosed information document, "HPV – Get Vaccinated" is for your use.

Thank you for your efforts to comply with this law. Hopefully, distribution of this information will reduce the incidence of cervical cancer caused by HPV through increased awareness and improved vaccination rates. For additional information contact Ashley Graham, Immunization Branch, at ashley.graham@ncmail.net. Electronic copies of this document can be downloaded at www.immunizenc.com.

Sincerely,

June St. Clair Atkinson, Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

c: SMT
   Regional Immunization Consultants
   Regional Immunization Nurses
   Central Office Staff
   School Health Nurse Consultants

JSA/CHO/ag