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To: Area Media
From: Lee County Health Department, Kathy Schutz, RN
Date: March 2, 2010
Subject: Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine (HPV)

**CDC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES VOTES FOR USE
OF GARDASIL FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN.**

On October 21, 2009, Merck & Co., Inc. announced that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to support the use of GARDASIL, HPV vaccine, for boys and young men ages 9 to 26, which means that GARDASIL may be given to males ages 9 to 26 to reduce the likelihood of acquiring genital warts.

"We are pleased that the ACIP has provided Vaccine for Children (VFC) funding for the use of GARDASIL in males, which should enable access to this important public health advance," said Mark Feinberg M.D., Ph.D., vice president of Policy, Public Health and Medical Affairs, Merck Vaccines and Infectious Diseases. "We remain committed to helping to prevent HPV-related diseases in both males and females."

Merck states GARDASIL is also approved in the U.S. for use in girls and young women 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of cervical, vulvar and vaginal cancers caused by HPV types 16 and 18; genital warts caused by HPV types 6 and 11; and precancerous or dysplastic lesions caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18. It is estimated that HPV types 16 and 18 account for 70 percent of cervical and vaginal cancer cases and up to 50 percent of vulvar cancer cases. Types 6 and 11 cause approximately 90 percent of all genital warts cases.

Merck's data says that approximately 75 to 80 percent of people acquire one or more types of HPV at some point in their lives. Nearly 17,000 new cases of genital HPV infection, of any type, occur each day in the U.S., in both males and females. For most people, the virus will go away on its own. But, for some people who don't clear certain types of the virus, HPV diseases can develop, and there is no way to predict who will or won't clear the virus. It is estimated that one million people in the U.S. will develop genital warts. Some resolve without treatment; but, for those that require treatment, warts recur in at least 25 percent of cases.

The Lee County Health Department is offering HPV vaccine to both males & females, age 9-18 years through the Vaccine for Children program. The cost for the three doses series is \$12.00 per dose. The Illinois All Kids card is also accepted as payment. The doses are given two months apart for the first two doses and the third dose is given 6 months after the first dose.

Call the Lee County Health Department at 815-284-3371 to schedule an appointment or for any questions regarding the vaccine.