

Feb. 28, 2007

News media calls to David Hass at (630) 682-7979, ext. 7374.

## **DuPage County Health Department offers Gardasil To eligible girls through Vaccines For Children program**

The DuPage County Health Department beginning on March 1 will offer Gardasil to girls who are income eligible through the state Vaccines For Children program. The vaccine will be available to girls, up to and including age 18, on a walk-in basis at regularly scheduled immunization clinics.

Check the health department's website, [www.dupagehealth.org](http://www.dupagehealth.org), for clinic hours and locations. Information on clinic hours and locations is also available by calling (630) 682-7979, ext. 7045.

Those eligible to receive VFC vaccines are children up through age 18 who have no insurance, are on Medicaid/AllKids, are American Indians or Alaskan Natives, or have insurance that does not cover immunizations. The fee for Gardasil is \$15.

Gardasil, a new vaccine recently approved by the FDA, provides protection against the human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus that is responsible for most cases of cervical cancer. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States.

Gardasil is given in a three-dose series. Vaccination prior to exposure is recommended; therefore, the vaccine is routinely recommended for girls ages 11 to 12. It can be given to girls as young as nine and it has been approved for females ages 9 to 26.

Gardasil is not recommended during pregnancy or for those who planning to get pregnant.

For specific information about the vaccine, call the health department at (630) 682-7979, ext. 6145.

*"We promote health, prevent illness, and provide quality service"*