



Planned Parenthood®
of Greater Cleveland

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HPV Vaccine Available at Planned Parenthood Health Centers

Highly effective vaccine will help in fight against cervical cancer

Cleveland- On December 18, 2006, Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland (PPGC) will begin offering Gardasil, the first vaccine against human papilloma virus (HPV) that cause about 70 percent of cervical cancer cases. The vaccine received FDA approval this past summer. It will be available at all Planned Parenthood health centers in the Greater Cleveland area.

The HPV vaccine represents a major breakthrough in the prevention of cervical cancer. Each year approximately 10,000 cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed in the United States, and 4,000 American women die from the disease. Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women.

"We are pleased and excited to be offering this vaccine to our clients," said Tara Broderick, CEO. "The HPV vaccine will give future generations the promise of health, safety, and peace of mind." The vaccine is most effective if administered before the onset of sexual activity, but is effective for *all* individuals who have not been exposed to HPV types 6, 11, 16 or 18, the most dangerous strains. It is estimated that at least 70 percent of all sexually active individuals have been exposed to HPV.

The vaccination will not prevent all cervical cancers. It is very important that women continue to get an annual Pap screening.

For Planned Parenthood health centers offering the vaccine, call 1-800-230-PLAN, or visit the website www.plannedparenthood.org/cleveland

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Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland has been serving area women since 1928. Our mission is to strengthen the community by preventing unintended pregnancy, and empowering individuals with the knowledge, opportunity, and freedom to make private decisions about reproductive and sexual health.