



June 10, 2016

Attn: Health Providers

Dear Immunization Partner:

The Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC), a partnership working together to protect Kansans from vaccine preventable diseases, is pleased to announce the availability of a new toolkit focused on raising Kansas immunization rates for the human papillomavirus (HPV).

Unfortunately, Kansas currently has one of the lowest rates of HPV immunization in the country. We need your help to increase the HPV vaccine series completion ~~from 24.8% to 42.0% for girls and from 19.5% to 38.0% for boys~~ by 2020! *TO 43% for both girls and boys*

Studies show that HPV is a common virus. Both boys and girls are affected by HPV and are at risk for cancers and other diseases caused by HPV. Fortunately, this cancer prevention vaccine is safe, effective, readily available and works best when given at ages 11 and 12 years for the strongest immune response.

The change begins with YOU! IKC strongly encourages HPV vaccinations and seeks to raise the rates of immunization in Kansas. The IKC toolkit is free and full of resources. You can access the toolkit at www.immunizekansascoalition.org/hpv-resources.asp.

We have enclosed a "Call to Change," documenting the most common HPV related cancers (cervical cancer and oropharyngeal cancer), the incidence rate in Kansas, and the \$8 billion estimated economic impact related to HPV disease in the U.S.

We invite you to join our effort as a local champion as we work to make a difference in the lives of Kansans. Let's save lives together!

Best Regards,

John Eplee, MD

Chair, Immunize Kansas Coalition