



**British
Columbia
Dental
Association**

MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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British Columbia Dental Association Supports Expansion of BC's HPV vaccination program

The British Columbia Dental Association (BCDA) supports the recent announcement by the Ministry of Health that it will expand BC's publicly-funded HPV vaccination program to boys and young men up to age 26 who are at a higher risk of contracting HPV.

The BC Cancer Agency estimates that 40 percent of newly diagnosed tonsillar and base of tongue cancers are caused by HPV. Up until the announcement, the free vaccine was only offered to girls which also protects heterosexual boys but left a significant gap for boys and young men who are at higher risk—those who have sex with males or who are street-involved.

"We are extremely pleased with the government's decision to expand this important preventive health care program," says Dr. Peter Lobb, president of the BCDA. "HPV-induced oral cancers are on the rise and certain populations of boys and young men are particularly vulnerable. This is a significant step towards ensuring that all British Columbians are protected against the risk of contracting an HPV-related cancer and other diseases."

The expanded program begins in September 2015. At-risk boys, young men who have sex with men and parents who are concerned their sons may be vulnerable can arrange for the HPV immunization by visiting their local public health unit.

Learn more:

To learn more about the government's announcement visit:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/hpv-immunization-program-expanded-to-vulnerable-boys>