



TEXAS
Women's Healthcare
COALITION

November 28, 2017

Lesley French
Associate Commissioner
Health Development and Independent Services
Texas Health and Human Services (HHS)
Brown-Heatly Building
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78751-2316

Dear Associate Commissioner French:

We greatly appreciate the recent resources HHSC has developed to inform stakeholders about important women's health issues, including family planning programs, cervical cancer, and Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC). Outreach materials from the state play a critical role in educating women about health risks and the programs and services available to them.

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC) would like to recommend that some additional information be added to the recent [Cervical Cancer Fact Sheet](#). Specifically, we recommend that this fact-sheet include information on the HPV vaccine. The HPV vaccine protects against most cancers caused by human papillomavirus infection. It is recommended for young women through age 26, young men through age 21, and several additional populations.

The HPV vaccine is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. It is critically important for preventing HPV, which causes 30,700 cancers in men and women every year.

Unfortunately, too many Texans remain unaware of the importance of the HPV vaccine. HHSC's fact sheets and outreach materials can play a vital role in educating the public about this essential public health service. We believe it is critical that this information be included on all HHSC resources regarding cervical cancer.

We appreciate your consideration of this change, and are happy to discuss it with you further. Thank you again for promoting information designed to keep Texans healthy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janet P. Realini, MD, MPH'.

Janet P. Realini, MD, MPH
Steering Committee Chair, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

CC:

Cecile Young, Chief Deputy Executive Commissioner, Texas Health and Human Services

Enrique Marquez, Deputy Executive Commissioner of Medical and Social Services, Texas Health and Human Services

Viveca Martinez, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Family and Social Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Meagan Kirby, Senior Advisor, Health Development and Independent Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission