Practice/PHO letter head

Date

Dear

**HPV (Human papillomavirus) vaccine for FREE**

Your last opportunity to have free HPV vaccine is fast approaching.

From the 1st of January 2017, HPV immunisation will be free for everyone, male or female, aged 9–26. However, to be able to have it for free you must have the first dose before you turn 27.

HPV immunisation helps protect you from HPV infection and HPV related cancers, such as cervical, anal, genital and some throat and mouth cancers. HPV is a common virus and is transmitted through intimate contact. Four out of five people will become infected with HPV at some time in their lives. While most get better on their own without any symptoms, some don’t and this can lead to cancer later in life.

To get the best protection you will need a course of three HPV vaccines given over 6 months.

Please ring your family doctor or practice nurse to make an appointment to get started.

For more information on HPV immunisation, go to the Ministry of Health website - www.health.govt.nz/hpv.

Kind regards,