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POSITION ON HPV VACCINATION & PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- §1.0 *Immunization of young females with the HPV [human papilloma virus] vaccine as a protection against cervical cancer poses no inherent moral objection. Rather, from a Catholic perspective, the HPV vaccine can be viewed as a responsible and acceptable measure for preventing cervical cancer.*
- §2.0 *Consonant with parental and guardian obligations toward good medical decisions concerning minor children, parents and legal guardians enjoy the right to assess the necessity and appropriateness of HPV vaccine for their daughters. This right should be exercised after seeking competent medical advice. This right must be respected by statute.*
- §2.1 *Parents are primary educators and care-givers for their children. As such they are obliged to instruct their children and to model for their charges responsible civic and moral behavior. Since HPV does not in itself promote sexual immorality or permissiveness; and, since the HPV vaccine is not a panacea for preventing all strains of HPV infection, parental responsibility for the moral and spiritual formation of their children in the virtue of chastity is indispensable. Chastity before marriage and fidelity within marriage serves as the best defense against such infections.*
- §3.0 *HPV is categorized as a behaviorally transmitted communicable disease and not a contagious disease. As such, advocacy for a public policy to mandate universal school-based vaccinations is not supported as appropriate by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.*
- §4.0 *The ability to pay for the HPV vaccine should not be the determining factor for such immunization. Access to the vaccine should be made available for those children who are uninsured or are without means to pay for the immunizations.*

Adopted by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky Board of Directors on August 13, 2007 during a regular meeting of the Board.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) is an agency of the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky, established in 1968. It speaks for the Church in matters of public policy, serves as liaison to government and the legislature, and coordinates communications and activities between the church and secular agencies. There are 406,000 Catholics in the Commonwealth. The Bishops of the four dioceses of KY constitute CCK's Board of Directors.