June 27, 2019

The Honorable Rod Dembowski

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

I am pleased to transmit the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Proviso Response Report: *Achieving Healthy People 2020 targets for HPV vaccine coverage in King County*, in response to Ordinance 18835, Section 95, Proviso 2.

This report addresses goal number four under the Health and Human Services area of the King County Strategic Plan: Improve the outcomes and lower the costs of care in King County by focusing on prevention and recovery from health and social problems. As noted in the attached report, human papillomavirus vaccine prevents many types of cancers, and in doing so, reduces healthcare costs and improves quality of life significantly.

The enclosed report covers the following:

* Description human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and scope of HPV-associated cancers in King County
* HPV vaccination and local adolescent HPV vaccination rates
* Barriers to and facilitators of HPV vaccination in adolescents in King County
* Current Public Health – Seattle & King County HPV vaccination promotion efforts
* Proposed strategies to increase vaccination uptake in adolescents
* Implementation budget, proposed over many biennia
* Timeline for implementation

The opportunity to prevent cancer presented by the HPV vaccine is exciting. But budget realities force public health departments across our state to make tough choices. Chronic underfunding by the state and federal governments have resulted in a system that has delayed responses to mandated, by state law, disease investigation work. HPV prevention is not a mandated activity. In King County, investigations of vector-borne diseases (for example, malaria and lyme disease), enteric diseases (salmonella, giardia) and hepatitis are all delayed. This puts our communities at-risk for outbreaks. Given these realities, the report does not recommend proceeding with the comprehensive plan to drive up HPV vaccines at this time.

The report was developed with the assistance of Public Health – Seattle & King County’s Immunization Program staff, including a short-term temporary program manager. The cost of producing the report included staff time, overhead, and transcription services, totaling approximately $47,115.93.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Proviso Response Report: *Achieving Healthy People 2020 targets for HPV vaccine coverage in King County*. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dennis Worsham, Prevention Services Division Director, at 206-263-8158.

Sincerely,

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King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Rachel Smith, Deputy Executive, King County

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of State, Executive’s Office

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Patty Hayes, Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

Dennis Worsham, Director, Prevention Services Division, PHSKC