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HOT

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HPV vaccine deadline extended

BY KEELY GRASSER
Staff Writer

Grade 8 graduates are being given a second chance to receive the controversial human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

The region's community and health services department announced new provincial eligibility meaning Grade 8 girls will receive the three necessary doses of Gardasil free, as long as they get their first shot by this September and their last by September 2009.

Under the previous provincial eligibility, Grade 8 girls had to complete all three doses of the voluntary vaccine, which protects them from most cervical cancers and genital warts caused by the HPV, before they started Grade 9.

The majority of the vaccines were administered by the health department at in-school clinics.

The eligibility changes also

Catch-up clinics

Three catch-up clinics have been scheduled.

- Aug. 19 at 50 High Tech Rd., second floor, in Richmond Hill
- Aug. 20 at 4261 Hwy. 7 in Markham
- Aug. 21 at 22 Prospect St. in Newmarket.
- Each clinic runs from 3 to 7 p.m.
- Appointments to receive the vaccination at a department sexual health clinic can be made by calling 1-800-361-5653.

mean girls can finish their vaccination schedule if they missed a shot during school immunizations, said Isabel Payne, manager of community clinics at the health department.

New rules also mean eligible girls can now get the shot from their family doctors, Ms Payne added.

Parents should advise their doctor they intend to have their

daughter immunized when booking the appointment, since doctors must request the vaccine from the health department.

Parents must also provide proof of the immunization to the health department.

Previously, if families elected to have girls vaccinated at a doctors office, they would have to pay for the shot.

The trio of shots needed would cost about \$400 or \$500, Ms Payne said.

Girls and women outside of the Grade 8 age bracket have to pay for the shots.

"The focus is Grade 8, but there's that increased flexibility," Ms. Payne said. "I think they realized that there weren't enough opportunities."

Girls must get parental consent to get it.

A little more than half of Grade 8 girls in York Region received immunizations during the 2007-2008 school year.

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Groups sought for information fair

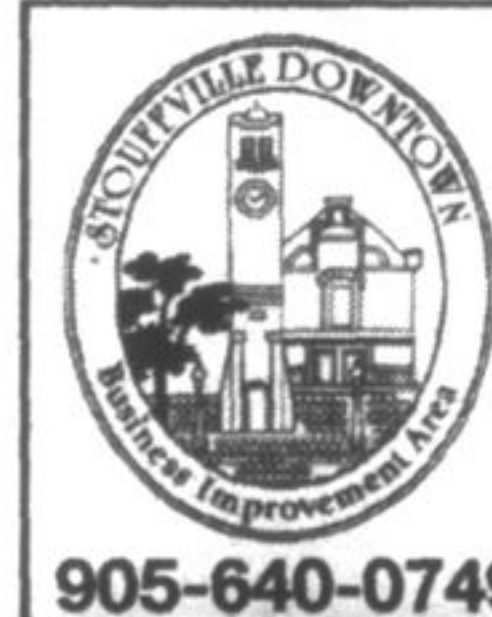
It's time for a night of pyjamas, inside information and sales.

The annual Moonlight Madness, hosted by the Business Improvement Area, is Thursday in downtown Stouffville.

The event, which runs from 7 to 10 p.m., is in conjunction with the Inside Whitchurch-Stouffville Information Fair.

Organizers for the information fair are looking for community-based, non-profit organizations to participate. Lighting and seating will be provided.

For details or to register for the information fair, call Gioia Garro at 905-640-1900 or e-mail gioia.garro@townofws.com



The Stouffville Business Improvement Area and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville are pleased to be partners in the Annual



905-640-0749

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

BIA MOONLIGHT MADNESS

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Thursday, August 21 - 7 pm-10 pm

FEATURING:

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- ★ **FACE PAINTING BY AXION BRILLINGER INSURANCE**
- ★ **BOUNCING CASTLE**
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Inside Whitchurch-Stouffville Participants

- Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Cancer Society
- Explorers
- Horticultural Society
- Latham Gallery
- Music Mania
- Pathways for Children
- Richardson Masonic Lodge
- Stouffville Community Policing
- Stouffville Igoma Partnership
- Stouffville Ministerial Association
- Willowgrove
- York Region Transit
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Region
- WS Curling Centre Committee
- Ducks Swimming
- Leisure Dept.
- Nineteen on the Park
- Museum
- Library
- Clerk's Dept.

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