

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STUDY SHOWS MOST PARENTS WANT PROVINCIALY-FUNDED HPV VACCINE
RIGHT AWAY**

Fight against cervical cancer marked by important milestones

MONTREAL, Quebec – August 7, 2007 – A new study, conducted by Ipsos Reid among 3,686 parents of teenage girls in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, shows that 77 per cent of respondents are “strongly in favour” of the Federal Government’s decision to make funds available to the provinces for free, school-based HPV vaccination programs. In fact, 93 per cent of vaccine supporters said such a program should be implemented “right away” or at the beginning of the upcoming school year.

“The results of this very large study are clear: Parents want provincially-funded HPV vaccination programs and they want them now,” said Dawn Graham, President of Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. “Many medical organizations have already lauded the Federal Government’s decision to make funds available to the provinces for free HPV vaccination programs and their views are shared by parents in the four largest Canadian provinces.”

Woman speaks out about cervical cancer

One year ago, Brigitte Leclerc’s life was turned upside down by a cervical cancer diagnosis. During a routine visit, her neurologist referred her to a gynaecologist when she complained of abundant menstrual bleeding. After two abnormal Pap tests and a colposcopy, it was confirmed that she had advanced cervical cancer. Her surgery was scheduled for August 2006, but was changed to June because her stomach had started to swell dramatically.

“All parents want their children to grow up healthy and they want them to be able to raise kids of their own, but cervical cancer can take these dreams away,” said Brigitte Leclerc, whose daughters were vaccinated as soon as GARDASIL[®] became available. “If all parents knew what I know about cervical cancer and HPV, they would run to get their daughters vaccinated. Why shouldn’t the province start giving this new vaccine in schools so that all families can help protect their daughters?”

Each year, approximately 1,350 Canadian women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and almost 400 will die from the disease. The lifetime risk of developing genital warts is approximately 10 per cent.

Significant milestones achieved in last 12 months

On July 10, 2006, Health Canada approved GARDASIL[®], [Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus (Types 6, 11, 16, 18) Recombinant Vaccine], the first and only vaccine uniquely designed for the prevention of cervical, vulvar and vaginal cancer, as well as precancerous lesions at these sites and genital warts caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18. Since becoming available in pharmacies across the country, over 100,000 doses of the vaccine have been distributed.

In late January 2007, the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that all females between the ages of nine and 13 be routinely vaccinated and that women between the ages of 14 and 26 also be vaccinated, even if they are already sexually active. The NACI recommendation was endorsed by many Canadian medical organizations including the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) and the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada (GOC).

The Federal Government then announced in March 2007 that it would make \$300 million available over the next three years to provinces and territories to support the launch of an HPV vaccination program. This decision was supported by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, an organization that had previously showed support for HPV vaccination with a drive for widespread, equitable access on International Women's Day.

In collaboration with six national health organizations, the SOGC announced it was releasing a newly developed national clinical guideline on HPV in late June 2007. The announcement stated that the guideline represents an exhaustive review of scientific evidence regarding the management, treatment and prevention of HPV-related diseases and provides clear recommendations for healthcare professionals on the use of the vaccine.

Ontario, Nova Scotia and PEI announce vaccination programs

The Ontario government formerly announced last week that it will offer Grade 8 girls the vaccine beginning this fall. The voluntary, school-based, vaccination program will be administered by public health nurses with consent forms and information provided to parents and guardians ahead of time.

Nova Scotia was the first province in Canada to launch a publicly funded HPV vaccination program. Starting this fall, girls in Grade 7 will be offered the HPV vaccine as part of Nova Scotia's school-based vaccination program.

Dr. Heather Morrison, PEI's Chief Health Officer, also said last week that her province plans to make the HPV vaccine available on a voluntary basis to all Grade 6 girls this fall. A formal announcement is expected soon.

About Merck Frosst

At Merck Frosst, patients come first. Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. is a research-driven pharmaceutical company. Merck Frosst discovers, develops and markets a broad range of innovative medicines to improve human health. Merck Frosst is one of the top 20 R&D investors in Canada, with an investment of \$114 million in 2006. The Company is committed to fostering partnerships to deliver the most valuable health outcomes for Canadian patients. More information about Merck Frosst is available at <http://www.merckfrosst.com>.

Forward-Looking Statement

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's current expectations and involve risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the statements. The forward-looking statements may include statements regarding product development, product potential or financial performance. No forward-looking statement can be guaranteed, and actual results may differ materially from those projected. Merck undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. Forward-looking statements in this press release should be evaluated together with the many uncertainties that affect Merck's business, particularly those mentioned in the cautionary statements in Item 1 of Merck's Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2006, and in its periodic reports on Form 10-Q and Form 8-K, which the Company incorporates by reference.

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