

Proceedings of the Virtual Meeting on HPV Vaccination

Date: 09 July 2026

Mode: Virtual Meeting

Chair: Office of the Deputy Director of Higher/Elementary Education, Bilaspur

Participants:

- Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Health Department, Bilaspur, along with Medical Officers and Health Department officials.
- Deputy Director of Education, Bilaspur.
- 175 Principals and Headmasters of Government Schools of District Bilaspur.

Agenda

To review the progress of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Programme for 14-year-old girl students and to discuss measures for achieving the remaining vaccination target.

Proceedings

A virtual meeting was held on **09.07.2026** with the Principals and Headmasters of Government Schools of District Bilaspur to review the progress of the HPV vaccination campaign for 14-year-old girl students.

The **Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Bilaspur**, informed the participants that approximately **40% of the vaccination target has been achieved** and that the vaccination campaign is continuing across the district. He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts by the Education and Health Departments to achieve full coverage within the stipulated time.

The CMO requested all Heads of Schools to discuss the importance of HPV vaccination during the forthcoming **Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs)**. He appealed to the school heads to counsel and motivate parents to ensure that their 14-year-old daughters receive the HPV vaccine and to address any concerns or misconceptions they may have.

During the meeting, the Health Department addressed several common myths and misconceptions regarding HPV vaccination. The participants were informed that:

1. The HPV vaccine is **provided free of cost** to all eligible 14-year-old girl students under the Government programme.
2. The vaccine is **highly effective**, with an efficacy of approximately **93–100%** in preventing cervical cancer.
3. The HPV vaccine is **not a new vaccine**; it has been in use internationally since **2006** and has an established safety profile.
4. A **single dose** is sufficient for eligible 14-year-old girls under the current national vaccination guidelines.
5. The vaccine does **not cause infertility** or any other serious long-term health problems. This misconception has no scientific basis. In fact it helps protect fertility by preventing HPV infection that can cause cervical cancer.

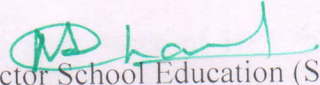
6. Like other vaccines, the HPV vaccine may cause only **mild and temporary side effects**, such as pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, low-grade fever, or occasional weakness, which generally resolve without complications.

The participants were encouraged to actively cooperate with the Health Department by identifying eligible students, disseminating authentic information among parents, and facilitating smooth implementation of the vaccination programme in their respective schools.

Decisions Taken

1. All Principals and Headmasters shall create awareness among parents and eligible students regarding the benefits and safety of HPV vaccination.
2. The HPV vaccination programme shall be discussed during all Parent-Teacher Meetings to encourage maximum participation.
3. School Heads shall coordinate closely with Health Department officials to facilitate vaccination sessions and ensure maximum coverage of eligible girl students.
4. Any misinformation or myths related to HPV vaccination shall be addressed using scientifically validated information provided by the Health Department.
5. Schools shall extend full cooperation to the Health Department for successful implementation of the HPV vaccination campaign and timely achievement of the district target.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all participants for their active participation and commitment towards safeguarding the health of adolescent girls through the successful implementation of the HPV vaccination programme.


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