

Dear Principal

As the head of a secondary school, you are obviously concerned by the Gardasil 9 vaccination and your school will certainly be the site of intervention. It is in this context that we, as a collective of parents and citizens of France and as parents of secondary school pupils, would like you to take a few minutes to read some information that is important to us.

### **Unfavourable benefit-risk balance**

This product (Gardasil-9, from the Merck laboratory) is supposed to prevent certain cancers (cervix, penis, anus, throat) by preventing those vaccinated from being infected by 9 papillomavirus-type viruses. However, the link between these cancers and HPV is not causal. HPVs may be a co-factor among other risk factors in these cancers, and in the vast majority of cases, HPV infections resolve on their own. The HAS itself acknowledges that "the duration of vaccine protection beyond 5 years is not known".

What's more, in the most heavily vaccinated countries in the world (England, United States, Australia, Great Britain, Norway and Sweden), there has been a worrying rise in these types of cancer among the most highly vaccinated age groups, especially young women aged between 15 and 39. So these countries are in no way advantaged by their high vaccination rates - quite the opposite.

In his book *Les Vaccins contre les cancers - rôle des papillomavirus*, Michel de Lorgeril, a doctor and former researcher at the CNRS, shows that the benefit/risk balance of HPV vaccines (Cervarix - Gardasil - Gardasil 9) is not favourable. Many doctors in France and abroad have expressed their opinion along these lines. When independent doctors and researchers are alerting us, it is astonishing to note that these vaccines are nonetheless being heavily advertised, particularly to teenagers, and are now even being offered in secondary schools.

### **A worrying safety profile**

What is certain is that these HPV vaccines induce known adverse effects, some of them serious, which potentially handicap the lives of the children who receive them. The most common side-effects, even if they are not classed as serious, are malaise, headaches, asthenia and allergic reactions, such as those that occurred to 22 out of 51 pupils vaccinated in Morlanwelz, Belgium, in November 2022. We can easily imagine how difficult and unpleasant it can be in a secondary school, which is less well equipped than a medical centre, to deal with multiple syncopations and/or allergic reactions, followed by parental concern and incomprehension.

In addition to immediate adverse effects, adverse effects occurring at a later time have also been reported. Since Gardasil was first marketed and until June 2020, the ANSM has recorded 2,809 cases of adverse reactions, including 742 serious cases (26%). Although under-reporting is acknowledged, these serious effects include multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barré syndromes, encephalitis, thrombocytopenia, meningial disorders, narcolepsy, polyarthritis, haemorrhagic rectocolitis, arteritis, etc., in all 27 pathologies identified. This

product therefore poses problems, all the more so as the vaccinated population is very young (11 to 14 years old) and is at their age not affected by the diseases that the vaccine is supposed to prevent.

### **Legal context**

In France, several young girls have suffered serious side-effects following HPV vaccination, and a lawsuit was brought against Merck in 2013.

Currently, in the United States, the largest lawsuit to date against Merck and the Gardasil vaccine is underway and will go to trial in late 2024 - early 2025. Hundreds of plaintiffs have been grouped together in a multi-district trial in North Carolina. The pharmaceutical giant, with its history of scandals (Vioxx, Levothyrox, etc.), already has numerous convictions. The charges are as follows: "Negligence, failure to warn, manufacturing defect, fraud and breach of warranty...".

### **School vaccination campaign - the stakes**

It is therefore important that parents have the fullest possible information about these products and that they are reassured that their child's non-vaccination will have no consequences for his/her schooling (exclusion, etc.). The fact that this campaign is taking place on your premises means that you are directly involved in the information and consent procedures. You should therefore be very vigilant in this matter.

We would also like to remind you of the national education system's duty of neutrality with regard to any promotion of pharmaceutical products in schools, which is strictly regulated by law. Given the serious accusations against the manufacturer and the doubts about the safety of this product, this promotion could provoke strong reactions from parents.

We know that your role in this vaccination campaign will be mainly to welcome the medical team and gather feedback from parents: consent/refusal. Nevertheless, you have the opportunity to make your teams aware of the dubious safety profile of this vaccine, so that they don't naively promote it in the classroom, and to encourage parents to find out as much as they can about Gardasil 9.

As the guarantor of children's safety in your school, it is up to you to encourage informed consent during this campaign, without neglecting information on adverse effects. We thank you for all the efforts you can make in this direction.

We remain at your disposal should you have any questions on this subject.

Collectif Parents & Citoyens France