



Preparing for the introduction of the Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in the routine schedule in the Caribbean

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Location	Miami, Florida, USA
Dates	22-23 May 2017
Participants	Representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Turks and Caicos. The purpose of the meeting was to support Caribbean countries to elaborate an HPV vaccine introduction plan, with a strong focus on preparing key messages about the vaccine and anticipating communication needs and a crisis response.
Purpose	

Many countries in the Region, during introduction of the HPV vaccine, have needed to respond to clustered anxiety temporarily associated with vaccination among adolescents, including messages that reemphasize evidence on the vaccine's safety and efficacy. For this reason, PAHO convened a meeting to help Caribbean countries develop HPV vaccine introduction plans and to provide training around effective communication strategies.

The first day of the meeting included presentations about HPV-associated disease and its prevention; PAHO/WHO recommendations on the use of HPV vaccines; lessons learned on the introduction of the HPV vaccine in Belize and a review of the main considerations when elaborating an introduction plan. The participants worked in groups to elaborate and/or review HPV vaccine introduction plans.



Participants at the HPV vaccine introduction meeting in Miami, Florida, May 2017. Credit: PAHO/WHO

The second day was focused on providing training on how to develop an effective communication plan for HPV vaccination in the routine program, including the development of key messages. Guyana and Canada presented their lessons learned on effective communication around HPV vaccination. In their work groups, participants developed plans for communication strategies to support the introduction and scale-up of the vaccine.

The meeting evaluation indicated that participants were content with the meeting outcomes, some commenting that it was the best meeting they had attended.



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