

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GARDASIL™ NOW RECOMMENDED BY NATIONAL VACCINE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Value of routine vaccination against cervical cancer confirmed

MONTREAL (Quebec) – January 30, 2007 – The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has issued its statement today on the recommended use of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in Canada. Namely:

- GARDASIL™ is recommended for females between 9 and 13 years of age as this is before the onset of sexual intercourse for most females in Canada, and the efficacy would be greatest.
- GARDASIL™ is recommended for females between the ages of 14 and 26 years, even if they are already sexually active, as they may not yet have HPV infection and are very unlikely to have been infected with all four HPV types (6, 11, 16, 18) in the vaccine.
- GARDASIL™ is recommended for females between the ages of 14 and 26 years who have had previous Pap abnormalities, including cervical cancer, or have had genital warts or known HPV infection.

The NACI statement goes on to highlight that while GARDASIL™ has been shown to be highly effective against cancer precursors caused by HPV-16 and 18, these two types of HPV are responsible for about 70% of cervical cancer. Women who have been vaccinated will still be susceptible to other HPV types that cause cervical cancer. Even if those types are less prevalent than HPV-16 or 18 these women should still expect to take part in the currently recommended cervical cancer screening programs.

GARDASIL™, the first and only vaccine uniquely designed to prevent cervical, vulvar and vaginal cancer as well as genital warts, was approved by Health Canada last summer.

“A positive step to protect the future health of Canadian girls and young women against HPV-related diseases was taken when Health Canada approved GARDASIL™ on the merit of its clinical results. The NACI recommendation reconfirms and recognizes the great value and potential of this vaccine,” said Christian Blouin, Director of Public Health Policy and Government Relations at Merck Frosst Canada.

“To ensure that the promise of HPV-related cancer prevention is fulfilled, the federal government should maintain its leadership role in helping the provinces rapidly implement these important recommendations by extending and increasing funding to the National Immunization Strategy (NIS),” continued Mr. Blouin. “Such leadership will avoid returning to the patchwork

approach that existed prior to the NIS and will ensure equitable and seamless access to HPV vaccination for Canadian girls and young women from coast to coast.”

Vaccine highly effective at preventing cervical cancer and genital warts

Specifically developed to target HPV types (6, 11, 16, 18) that cause 90 per cent of genital warts and 70 per cent of anogenital cancers and high-grade pre-cancers, GARDASIL™ was evaluated in clinical trials and results of these trials showed prevention of:

- 100 per cent of HPV 16- and 18-related cervical pre-cancers and non-invasive cervical cancers
- 99 per cent of cases of genital warts caused by HPV 6 or 11
- 100 per cent of HPV 16- and 18-related vulvar and vaginal pre-cancers

A recent study on the economic and health burden of HPV infection and associated diseases showed that only eight Canadian women need to be vaccinated in order to prevent one case of genital warts and 639 women to prevent one cervical cancer death.¹

About NACI

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) is a committee of recognized experts in the fields of pediatrics, infectious diseases, immunology, medical microbiology, internal medicine and public health. The Committee reports to the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, and works with departmental staff of the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control of the Public Health Agency of Canada to provide ongoing and timely medical, scientific and public health advice. NACI makes recommendations for the use of vaccines approved in Canada and also advises on the need for national vaccination strategies.

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 \$117 million in 2005. 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, 2005, and in its periodic reports on Form 10-Q and Form 8-K, which the Company incorporates by reference.

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- 30 -

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¹ Brisson, M et al. Estimating the number needed to vaccinate to prevent HPV related disease and mortality. Presented at the 7th Canadian Immunization Conference (CIC) on December 3, 2006 in Winnipeg.