



# Kenya Medical Association

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

KMA CENTRE, CHYULU ROAD, P.O. BOX 48502 – 00100 GPO, NAIROBI - KENYA

Mobile: +254 722 275 695

Email: [nec@kma.co.ke](mailto:nec@kma.co.ke)

Website: [www.kma.co.ke](http://www.kma.co.ke)

### PRESS STATEMENT

June 28, 2019

### **KENYA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION STATEMENT ON VACCINATION AGAINST HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV)**

The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) is the premier Health Professional Association in Kenya, and our primary mandate is to advocate for the welfare of our members as well as to promote high quality health care for all citizens.

The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) notes with great concern reports in the media concerning Kenya Catholic Doctors Association (KCDA) objecting to the introduction of vaccination of girls against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) as a preventive measure for cancer of the cervix.

Cancer of the cervix is the second commonest cancer in Kenyan women after breast cancer, and the fourth globally. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection and facilitates development of cancer of the cervix among other cancers. According to a report by Information Centre on HPV and Cancer, about 5,250 new cervical cancer cases are diagnosed annually in Kenya and about 3,286 cervical cancer cases result in death every year.

The World Health Organization recommends that all girls aged above the age of 10 should get two doses of HPV vaccine given six to twelve months apart. The vaccine is most effective when given before a girl is exposed to the virus and is proved to be one of the most effective methods for preventing HPV. For females who have not been vaccinated, the recommendation is that the same should be taken before 26 years. There is no research evidence that the vaccination is associated with early initiation of sexual activity or sexually risky behavior.

KMA finds the call by the KCDA for a boycott on the vaccine to be unfounded on evidence and utterly irresponsible as it denies our women a potentially life-saving intervention against cervical cancer and warts.

KMA fully supports the Ministry of Health's efforts in disease prevention and its comprehensive response to the statements made by KCDA.

**Prof. Boaz Otieno-Nyunya**

**Convener**

**KMA's Reproductive Health Committee**

President  
Dr. Jacqueline Kitulu

Vice-President  
Prof. Lukoye Atwoli

Secretary-General  
Dr. Simon Kigundu

Assistant Secretary-General  
Dr. Joy Mugambi

Treasurer-General  
Dr. Supa Tunje