

Dear Japanese colleagues,



I deplore the action of the Japanese authorities in retracting their endorsement of HPV vaccination. Such action is certainly not warranted from the available data and has been executed without any scientific or clinical basis. Unfortunately it will undermine not only the benefits of HPV vaccination for cancer prevention for the Japanese population but could also influence uptake in other vaccination programmes. There are several recent examples of the impact of insufficient vaccination coverage in different populations worldwide which have led to unnecessary disease and some completely preventable deaths. The Japanese Authorities must be prepared to take the full responsibility for their precipitous and unnecessary action in effectively undermining the greatest ever vehicle for improved health care in mankind.

Best wishes

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