

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE for ILLINOIS ACTION PLAN TO ELIMINATE VACCINE-PREVENTABLE CANCERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

XX/XX/XXXX

MEDIA CONTACT:

Name, Title, Organization

Cell: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Email:

State of Illinois Announces First Plan to Eliminate Vaccine-Preventable Cancers

Plan will save lives by eliminating cancers caused by HPV and HBV infections

CHICAGO - Month XX, 2022 – (your organization’s name) in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health and more than 300 contributors from public health, clinical and community-based organizations, family medicine and pediatrics, as well as parents of school age children, is pleased to announce the release of Illinois’ Action Plan to Eliminate Vaccine-Preventable Cancers.

The goal of the plan is simple yet monumental – to reduce and then eliminate vaccine-preventable cancers in Illinois. The World Health Organization defines elimination as a condition where there are fewer than four cases per 100,000 per year.

“While elimination is an ambitious goal, it is within reach,” said (spokesperson). “To reduce and then eliminate vaccine-preventable cancers, we need to increase protective health behaviors and vaccinations to prevent infections from human papillomavirus and hepatitis B, two viruses that are known to cause cancer. These two viruses are driving the rising incidence rates for HPV-related head and neck cancers, also referred to as oropharyngeal cancers, and HBV-related liver cancers in Illinois.”

The American Cancer Society estimates that in Illinois in 2022, more than 75,000 people will be diagnosed with cancer and more than 23,000 will die. However, research has proven that a substantial proportion of cancers are preventable by following a healthy lifestyle – avoiding tobacco, exercising regularly, eating more vegetables and fruits, limiting alcohol, protecting skin and receiving routine screenings and recommended vaccinations.

“Vaccines are the greatest public health success in history and have helped save millions of lives,” said (spokesperson). “An estimated 15 percent of all human cancers worldwide are attributed to viruses.”

Viruses associated with increased risk of cancers include Hepatitis B (HBV) and Human Papillomavirus (HPV). The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 42,000 new cases of liver cancer will be diagnosed in 2022 and Hepatitis B infections account for up to 50 percent of liver cancers. HPV causes nearly 36,000 cases of cancer in the United States every year – including 90 percent of cervical cancers and pre-cancers, cancers of the throat and tongue and cancers of the anus, penis, vulva and vagina.

“Most people will get HPV at some point in their lives and are likely to remain unaware of it because it usually clears on its own,” said (spokesperson). “The CDC estimates that nearly 80 million Americans are currently infected with some type of HPV.” To prevent these infections and the associated risks for developing cancers caused by these viruses, (your organization’s name) is redoubling efforts to vaccinate adolescents and young adults on time.

Commented [AN1]: Exact number: 75,350

Commented [SE2R1]: Yes, but “exact” and “estimates” are funny bedfellows...thus, “more than...” 😊

Commented [AN3]: Exact number: 23,200

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For complete findings and to read the full Illinois Action Plan to Eliminate Vaccine-Preventable Cancers, visit [\(insert the URL on your organization's website where the plan is posted\)](#).

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