

Immunize for life



HPV

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)
VACCINE PROGRAM
(Gardasil®)

CATCH UP FOR FEMALES IN GRADE 9 TO 12

WHAT IS HPV?

HPV is a very common virus that can cause many types of cancers; including cervical, other genital cancers as well as genital warts. New research is also linking HPV to head and neck cancers. About 3 out of 4 people will have at least one HPV infection in their lifetime. Every year in Ontario hundreds of women are diagnosed with cervical cancer. As many as 140 women will die of the disease each year.

HOW IS HPV SPREAD?

HPV is most commonly spread during intimate skin-to-skin contact (including sexual activity) with a person that has HPV. An infected mother can also pass HPV to her child at birth.

You cannot get HPV from casual contact such as hugging, or from using the same dishes as an infected person. It is not passed on when someone with HPV coughs or sneezes.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF HPV?

Most people that get HPV don't have any signs or symptoms but can develop cervical abnormalities, cervical cancer, other genital cancers, or genital warts. There is no way of knowing how you'll be affected. This means you could be infected by someone else without knowing it.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE HPV VACCINE?

The vaccine is almost 100% effective against the four HPV types that it targets. This includes type 16, 18, 6, and 11.

These four types of HPV are known to cause 70% of cervical cancer and 90% of genital warts. Studies have shown that the vaccine has provided good protection for 10 years after vaccination and that there is no evidence of weakened protection overtime.

You cannot get a HPV infection from the vaccine.

HPV can be prevented by being vaccinated with the HPV vaccine.

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WHO SHOULD GET THE HPV VACCINE?

The HPV vaccine is approved for females aged 9 to 45 years old. The provincial government is funding the voluntary HPV vaccination program for all Grade 8 to 12 females in Ontario. This means that all females starting in Grade 8 can get the vaccine **free** from the Health Unit. If you want to be vaccinated by your doctor, the three shots of the HPV vaccine cost between **\$300** and **\$500**. The HPV vaccine is most effective if given to females before they become sexually active.

HOW IS THE PUBLICALLY FUNDED HPV VACCINE PROGRAM DELIVERED?

Public health nurses will give students **two to three separate injections, at specific intervals**. The nurse **may** delay giving the vaccine to anyone who has a fever or any other illness more serious than a minor cold.

ON THE DAY OF THE CLINIC

Wear a short sleeve shirt or one that can easily be pulled above the shoulder.

Eat a healthy breakfast or lunch.

WHO SHOULD NOT GET THE HPV VACCINE?

You should **not** get the HPV vaccine if you:

- Had a serious reaction to the HPV vaccine.
- Are pregnant.

Check with your health care provider if you have an allergy or have had an allergic reaction to another vaccine, aluminum, yeast, or sodium chloride. The risk of serious illness from HPV virus is much greater than the risk of complications from the HPV vaccine.

ARE THERE SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE VACCINE?

The vaccine has been used in Canada since 2006. It may cause minor side effects, that can last a day or more, such as:

- Redness, warmth, or slight swelling at the site of the injection.
- Tiredness.
- Slight fever.

Serious reactions are rare. These reactions may include: difficulty breathing, swelling of face or mouth, fever over 39°C, hives, or a rash. If these occur within 15 days of injection report them to your health care provider or local Health Unit.

All personal (health) information collected and used is kept confidential and may be disclosed only as permitted under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA) and the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004* (PHIPA). Information is collected under the Health Protection and Promotion Act for the purpose of delivering the Healthy Schools programs and services, and may be used for evaluation or statistical/research purposes. The information collected on this form will be entered in to the provincial computerized database. You have the right to view and correct this information, or withhold or revoke your consent. If you have any questions about our policy, please contact the Privacy Officer at 519-258-2146 ext. 1310.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.wechu.org | www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/hpv | www.hpvinfos.ca

www.merck.ca | www.gardasil.ca