



HPV vaccine

Human Papillomavirus

The HPV vaccine is part of the Routine Yukon Immunization Program.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection is very common in Canada. Without vaccination, 75 per cent of people will get HPV infection in their lifetime. HPV mainly spreads through sex involving skin-to-skin contact. It can sometimes lead to serious complications like cancer and death. The HPV vaccines are safe and the most effective way to prevent HPV infection. Talk to your health care provider about getting the HPV vaccine for yourself or for your child.

Human Papillomavirus can cause:

- genital warts;
- cervical cancer;
- cancers of the head and neck; and
- cancer of the anus, penis, vagina and vulva.

Complications may lead to:

- invasive cancers; and
- death.

Why is the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine recommended?

Getting the HPV vaccine at an early age helps prevent HPV infections before you are at risk. Three out of four sexually active people will get HPV at some point in their lives.

Most people infected with HPV do not have symptoms and can unknowingly pass the virus to others. HPV may clear on its own, but an HPV infection can lead to or cause cancer.

The HPV-9 vaccine protects against nine types of HPV. It prevents cancers, including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal and throat cancers. It also prevents genital warts. HPV vaccines provide effective, safe and long-lasting protection.

Possible side effects of the vaccine

Common reactions to the shot may include redness, tenderness and swelling at the injection site. Some may develop a fever, headache, fatigue, or digestive problems. These are generally mild and last one to two days.

Side effects of the immunization are easy to relieve. Apply a cold, damp compress to the site. If needed, give a pain reliever like acetaminophen. Talk to your health care provider if your symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

It's important to stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine because, although it's very rare, some people might have a severe allergic reaction. The clinic can treat it right away. This happens to less than one in a million people. If you have a reaction after leaving, call 911 or your local emergency number.

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