

Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV-9)

Protects against nine types of HPV - 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58.

What is HPV?

HPV is a common virus that causes cancer of the cervix, vulvar, vagina, anus, head, neck, penis and can also cause genital warts. It is spread through sexual contact, either intercourse or sexual touching. Without vaccination, most people will get HPV during their lifetime. Most often, an HPV infection will clear on its own. For some people the HPV will not go away, causing HPV-related cancers or genital warts. Most people infected with HPV do not show any signs or symptoms and can pass the virus onto others without even knowing it.

Why get vaccinated?

Immunization is the best way to protect you and your family against serious diseases. This vaccine is most effective when given before exposure to the disease.

With a completed series, HPV-9 vaccine has been proven to prevent the most common types of HPV infection related to:

- Over 90% of cervical cancers
- About 80-90% of anal cancers
- 40% of vaginal and vulvar cancers
- 40-50% of penile cancers
- 25-35% of mouth and throat cancers (oral and oropharyngeal cancers)
- Over 90% of genital warts

Even with HPV vaccination, it is important to be screened for cervical, vulvar, vaginal, anal, penile and certain head and neck cancers. Women should still get routine cervical cancer screening.

Who is eligible to be vaccinated?

The vaccine is routinely offered to grade 7 students with eligibility remaining to the end of grade 12.

It is also recommended for females 9-45, and males 9-26, and those 27 and older with continued risk.

This vaccine is given as a two-dose series, 6 months apart, for 9-14-year olds and is given as a three-dose series, over 6 months (0, 2, 6), for 15 years and older.

People with weakened immune systems should also get three doses including 9-14-year olds.

Who should not get the vaccine?

- Anyone with a severe allergic reaction to any part of the vaccine or its container.
- Anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction to this vaccine in the past.
- Anyone with a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold.

If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) within six weeks of a previous vaccine, please speak to a healthcare provider about getting this vaccine.

What to expect after vaccination?

HPV-9 vaccine is safe and well tolerated.

Side effects, if they occur, are usually mild and go away in a few days. Common side effects include redness, swelling and/or pain at the injection site.

Headache, fever, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, and muscle aches may also occur but are less common.

Severe allergic reactions (i.e. anaphylaxis), although rare, are a risk with the administration of any vaccine. It is recommended that you remain in a clinic setting for 15 minutes following immunization as this is the most common timeframe when anaphylaxis will occur.

Stay up to date with your vaccinations

Make sure your healthcare provider updates your personal immunization record (yellow card) after you receive a vaccine. Keep your records in a safe place.

If your child attends licensed child care or school, please notify Public Health when a vaccine is given. You can report the vaccines in one of the following ways:

- **Online:** The Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON) tool available at immunizewdg.ca allows you to report and view your child's immunization record.
- **Email:** vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca
- **Phone:** 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396
- **Fax:** 1-519-836-2986

For more information visit:

- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health: wdgpublichealth.ca
- Ontario Ministry of Health: www.ontario.ca/page/vaccines
- Immunize Canada: www.immunize.ca
- Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario: www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/schedule.aspx