



HPV Vaccination Resource Information for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous Peoples

What is HPV?

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a virus that is passed from one person to another through sexual contact.¹ Sexual contact includes when someone has contact with another person's genitals (private parts). This contact can be with the hands, mouth or genitals.¹
- Most HPV infections will go away on their own and not cause any symptoms. However, infections can persist and lead to genital warts, head, neck and genital cancers in all people and cervical cancer in people who have a cervix.¹

What is the HPV Vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect against HPV infections. In the past, it was recommended that only girls and women be vaccinated, but the research has evolved, and it is now recommended that all children be vaccinated.^{1,2}

Why is HPV vaccination important for me?

- HPV vaccination prevents most, but not all, cervical cancers and many cases of head, neck, penile and anal cancers. It can also prevent genital warts.²
- People who are infected by HPV may or may not have symptoms and can spread the virus to others.²
- Indigenous communities have shared feedback about lower HPV vaccination uptake, which is concerning since getting vaccinated is an important preventive step.

Why is HPV vaccination important for my child?

- The HPV vaccine is most effective before a person becomes sexually active and has a risk of being exposed to the infection.²
- Getting your child vaccinated against HPV before they become sexually active protects them if they do decide to have sex later on in life.



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Who can get the HPV vaccine?

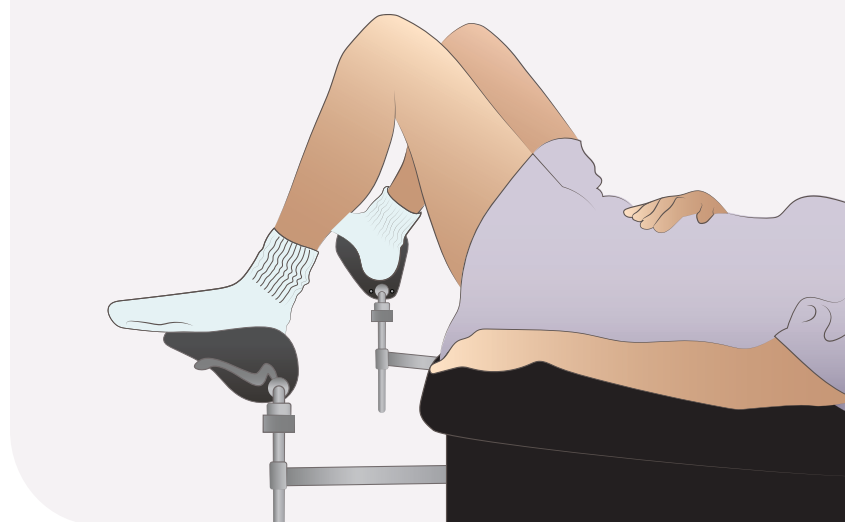
- In Ontario, the HPV vaccine is free for all students between grades 7 to 12.³
- If your child missed the vaccine in grade 7, they can still get it for free until the end of grade 12 by contacting your health care provider or local public health unit.³
- Young adults older than grade 12 (usually 18+) until age 26 may still be eligible for the free vaccine, depending on their age and risk factors.^{2,3} Talk to your health care provider to learn more.
- People 27 years of age and older who are at risk of exposure to HPV may receive the vaccine with shared decision making and discussion with a health care provider.
- The cost is around \$215 per dose, and 2 to 3 doses are often required.³
- The HPV vaccine is not covered by Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB).

Where can I get the HPV vaccine?

You can get the HPV vaccine from your health care provider, sexual health clinic, or a public health unit. You may need to make an appointment to get the vaccination.

The Cervical Screening Test

- Getting the HPV vaccine means you'll be better protected against future HPV infection, which is the primary cause of cervical cancer. For females, even though you've been vaccinated, you will still need to have regular cervical screening tests as recommended by your health care provider, since the vaccine doesn't protect against all types of HPV.
- The cervical screening test checks for types of HPV that can sometimes cause cervical cancer. It also checks for cell changes in the cervix caused by these types of HPV.
- The test does not check for types of HPV that do not cause cancer.
- The cervical screening test feels like getting a Pap test. A health care provider uses a small, soft brush to take cells from the cervix so the lab can test the cells for types of HPV and cell changes.



1 Government of Canada. Available from: canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-9-human-papillomavirus-vaccine.html

2 Immunize Canada. Available from: [immunize.ca/sites/default/files/Resource%20and%20Product%20Uploads%20\(PDFs\)/Products%20and%20Resources/HPV/hpv_pocketguide_web_e.pdf](https://immunize.ca/sites/default/files/Resource%20and%20Product%20Uploads%20(PDFs)/Products%20and%20Resources/HPV/hpv_pocketguide_web_e.pdf)

3 City of Toronto. Available from: [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Vaccine Fact Sheet – City of Toronto](#)

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