



Human Papillomavirus (HPV-9) Vaccine

Vaccines are one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family against serious infectious diseases.

HPV-9 vaccine can protect against nine types of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infections. It contains the same 4 HPV types (6, 11, 16 and 18) as in the HPV-4 vaccine, with 5 additional HPV types (31, 33, 45, 52, and 58) added. The types of HPV listed above are responsible for causing 90% of all cervical cancers and 75-85% of cervical pre-cancers. They also cause 75% of vulvar cancers, 80-85% of vaginal cancers and 90-95% of anal cancers. Oropharyngeal cancers (such as tonsillar cancer) from HPV have increased from 25% to 62% since 1999. 90% of genital warts are caused by HPV types 6 and 11.

What is human papillomavirus (HPV)?

- There are many different types of HPV and not all types are in the vaccine.
- HPV is estimated to infect over 550,000 Canadians each year.
- Cervical cancer affects about 1,350 Canadian women and causes 390 deaths each year.
- Women who have been exposed to HPV may not develop cancer of the cervix.
- HPV infection usually goes away on its own. However, in some women, the infection can remain and slowly lead to cancer if it is not found and treated.
- HPV can be passed from one person to another through direct skin contact that occurs during sexual activity.
- People with HPV infection may not know that they have this infection because they can have no symptoms at all. However, they can pass the infection to their sexual partners.
- Condoms offer some protection, but the virus may be present on skin that is not covered by the condom.
- In women, Pap tests can detect early abnormalities in the cervix caused by HPV. Treatment of these abnormalities can prevent cervical cancer.
- Sexually active vaccinated women must continue to have regular Pap tests because the vaccine does not protect against all HPV types that cause cervical cancer.
- Abstinence is the best way to prevent HPV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Who should get HPV-9 Vaccine?

HPV-9 vaccine is recommended for girls and women aged 9 to 45 and boys and men aged 9 to 26. HPV-9 vaccine provides the best protection if given before becoming sexually active, although sexually active men and women will still get good protection from HPV-9 vaccine. Once you are sexually active, the chances of being exposed to HPV infection increase. If you are already infected with one of the HPV types in the vaccine, the vaccine will not prevent disease from that type but will protect you against the other types of HPV in the vaccine. HPV-9 vaccine can be given to women who are breastfeeding.

Who should not get HPV-9 Vaccine?

- Individuals with a high fever or serious infection (vaccination should be delayed until the individual has recovered).
- Individuals who have a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine.
- Children under 9 years of age.
- Women who are or may be pregnant.

When should this vaccine be given?

A two dose schedule is recommended for immunocompetent girls and boys who receive their first dose of HPV-9 vaccine up to and including the age of 14. The HPV-9 vaccine two dose schedule should be administered at least 6 months apart. Teens and young adults who start the series later, at ages 15 years of age or older, will continue to need the three doses of HPV -9 vaccine.

What are the side effects of HPV-9 Vaccine?

The most common reaction to immunization is redness, tenderness and swelling where the vaccine was given. Fever, nausea, dizziness and headache can also occur. Difficulty breathing has been reported very rarely. Allergic reactions like hives, wheezing, or swelling of the face and mouth are very rare. You should always discuss the benefits and risks of any vaccine with your doctor or health care professional.

Always report any serious reactions to your doctor or nurse practitioner.

Go to a hospital emergency room if you have any of the following symptoms of an allergic reaction: itchy hives, swelling of the lips, face, tongue, legs/arms or difficulty breathing.

Who should I talk to if I have any questions?

Algoma Public Health, Infectious Diseases – Immunization phone line (705) 759-5409
www.algomapublichealth.com or your health care provider.

Record of Protection

After any immunization is received, a record or yellow card should be updated. Keep your records in a safe place. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide immunization records for all school children to the local public health unit. Don't forget to update the health unit when/if you or your child gets another immunization.