

SCHOOL HPV VACCINE FOR CANCER PREVENTION:

DOES YOUR CHILD NEED A “CATCH-UP” VACCINATION?

What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection.

HPV causes **91% of cervical cancers** and **63% of penile cancers**.¹ It can also cause cancer of the vagina, vulva, anus, and throat. Some types of HPV can cause genital warts.

Without the HPV vaccine, **up to 75%** of sexually active people will have an HPV infection at some point.²



During the COVID-19 pandemic, many young people have missed their HPV vaccine!



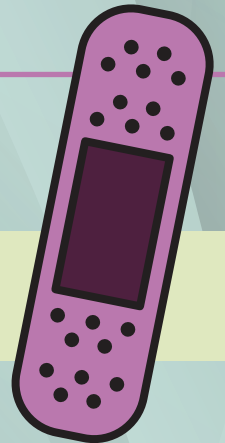
Up-to-date school-based HPV immunization for 12-year-olds in Ontario was less than 1% in the 2020-2021 school year.⁶

The HPV Vaccine

The HPV vaccine effectively protects young people from the most common types of HPV that cause cancer and genital warts.^{3,4}

Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends **all young people aged 9-26 years get the HPV vaccine.**⁵

The vaccine is typically given in two doses, at least 6 months apart.



How Can I Get the HPV Vaccine for My Child?

1. In Ontario, all grade 7 students can get the HPV vaccine for free at school.⁷
2. As of June 2022, Ontario Public Health is offering free “catch up” HPV vaccines for students in grades 7-12.⁸
3. The HPV vaccine can also be purchased privately with a prescription from a healthcare provider (e.g., physician, nurse practitioner) and may be covered through private healthcare insurance.



1. CDC. 2022. How many cancers are linked with HPV per year? <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/cases.htm>

2. Government of Canada. 2017. Human papillomavirus vaccine: Canadian immunization guide. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-9-human-papillomavirus-vaccine.html>

3. Mix, J.M., et al., (2020). Assessing impact of HPV vaccination on cervical cancer incidence among women aged 15-29 years in the United States, 1999-2017: An ecologic study. *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, 30(1), 30-37.

4. Steben et al., 2018. A review of the impact and effectiveness of the quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine: 10 years of clinical experience in Canada. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology Canada*, 40(12), 1635-1645.

5. Public Health Agency of Canada. 2017. An advisory committee statement (ACS) National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). Update on the recommended Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine immunization schedule. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/update-recommended-human-papillomavirus-vaccine-immunization-schedule.html>

6. Public Health Ontario. 2022. Immunization coverage report for school-based programs in Ontario: 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/i/2021/immunization-coverage-2019-2021.pdf?sc_lang=en

7. Government of Ontario. Getting the HPV Vaccine. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/getting-hpv-vaccine#:~:text=If%20you'd%20like%20to,be%20covered%20through%20private%20insurance.>

8. Government of Ontario. Publicly funded immunization schedules for Ontario, 2022. https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Publicly_Funded_ImmunizationSchedule.pdf