

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HPV

## What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a virus that is spread during sexual contact

HPV can cause **GENITAL WARTS** and **CANCER** in different parts of the body (e.g., throat, cervix, vulva, penis, anus)

## What Should I Know?

Without the HPV vaccine, most people will get HPV **AT LEAST ONCE** in their lifetime

Most of the time, people with HPV **DON'T HAVE ANY SIGNS** of a HPV infection

If you are or become **SEXUALLY ACTIVE**, you are at risk for HPV infection

The HPV vaccine **IS VERY SAFE** and can prevent cancers and genital warts

## How Can I REDUCE My Risk?

It is recommended that all young people over the **AGE OF 9** get the HPV vaccine

For maximum benefit, get the HPV vaccine **BEFORE** you are sexually active

In Canada, the HPV vaccine is available in most **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**. You can also talk to a nurse or doctor about how to obtain the vaccine