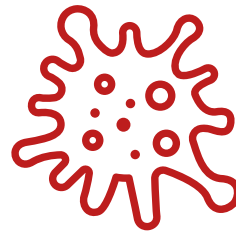


HPV (human papillomavirus)



 Vaccination UK

working on 
behalf of **England**

We are the school aged immunisation team at Vaccination UK, a friendly team of nurses who are responsible for giving any vaccines that are due at school or for school aged children aged 5-18. We are based at Stockley Park, Uxbridge and travel to all schools across the borough to administer these vaccines.

This newsletter is about the HPV vaccinations that are due in school after Easter onwards for all Year 8 children. Please do check out the links provided for more information!

Why should my child have the HPV Vaccine?

- It is a single dose of Gardasil 9 that is offered to pupils in Year 8 to prevent HPV infection.
- It protects against two high risk HPV types that cause cancers, including cancer of the cervix, head and neck, penile and rectal cancers.
- To give the best protection, the vaccine should be given between ages 12-13 when the immune system is strong.
- The vaccine prevents up to 90% of cervical cancer cases.

For more information on the HPV vaccine, see our FAQs, [click here](#) or visit our website:
www.schoolvaccination.uk/hpv-vaccine

Team contact details:

Vaccination UK Regus,
6-9 The Square,
Stockley Park,
Uxbridge, UB11 1FW

020 8150 1220

Having the vaccine at school

- Consent forms will be sent electronically via your child's school.
- The form needs to be returned by the date given to you by your school whether it is Yes or No. Young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.
- The vaccine program normally runs from April until July.

MYTH BUSTING



MYTH
The HPV vaccination can lead to infertility

TRUTH
The HPV vaccine can actually help protect fertility by preventing gynecological problems related to the treatment of cervical cancer.

MYTH
The HPV vaccine is a contraceptive

TRUTH
The HPV vaccine does not prevent pregnancy and is not a contraceptive.

MYTH
HPV is uncommon, and it's unlikely I'll be infected, so there's no need to get the HPV vaccine

TRUTH
Genital warts is the most common sexually transmitted infection.

MYTH
Only girls need to get the HPV vaccine, men and boys don't need it

TRUTH
HPV affects both men and women. It can be easily transmitted to a partner without either of them knowing.

MYTH
Getting the HPV vaccine will encourage young people to have sex

TRUTH
There is no evidence whatsoever that giving the HPV vaccine encourages young people to have sex.

CONSENT INFORMATION

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:

- **Mother: automatic**
- **Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently**
- **Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired**
- **Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired**
- **Parental responsibility agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to principle Registry or the family division (High Court)**
- **Residence order: granted by the court**

Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q What is the HPV (humanpapilloma virus)

The human papilloma virus is caught through sexual contact with another person who already has it. There are many different types of HPV. Most HPV infections do not cause any symptoms and get better on their own. However, some do not clear up and can lead to cancer whilst others cause genital warts.

Q Which cancers are caused by HPV?

The human papillomavirus increases the risk of developing some cancers in later life including cervical cancer (cancer of the entrance to the womb), some mouth and throat cancers and some cancers of the anus and genital area. HPV causes more than 99% of all cervical cancer, the most common cancer among women under the age of 35. Most vaginal, vulval, penile and anal cancers are also caused by HPV.

Q What is the HPV vaccine and why does a child need it now?

The HPV vaccine protects against two high risk HPV types that cause cancer, including most cases of cervical cancer. Having this vaccine will also protect your child against the types of HPV that cause the majority of cases of genital warts. Both boys and girls need to get this vaccine because HPV infection is so common and easily transmitted.

Q How effective is it?

The HPV vaccine is a vaccination which prevents cancer. A Scottish study has already shown a **71% reduction in pre-cancerous cervical disease** in young women. In the years since the start of the vaccination programme in the UK there has been a big decline in HPV infections and in the number of young people with genital warts.

However, it is important that we keep vaccination rates very high so that the number of these infections does not begin to rise again.

Q How safe is the vaccine?

The HPV vaccination is very safe. This has been established through rigorous testing and **over 280 million doses** delivered across the world. Researchers in the UK, the US, Scandinavia, Australia and several other countries have checked millions of medical records to see if people who get the HPV vaccine are more likely to suffer from rare health problems. They found that just as many unvaccinated people suffer from rare health problems as vaccinated people do. That means the vaccine can't be the cause of their health problems — even if they started very soon after vaccination.

Q Are there any side effects?

Like most injections, the side effects of the HPV vaccination are quite mild. Stinging and soreness in the arm are common but wear off in a couple of days. More serious side effects are extremely rare. As with all vaccines, any reports of side effects are closely monitored and reviewed. See www.nhs.uk/vaccinations if you'd like more information on side effects.

PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2024/25 policy can be viewed here: www.schoolvaccinationuk.com/privacy-policy

For data protection queries, please contact: dpo@vaccinationuk.co.uk