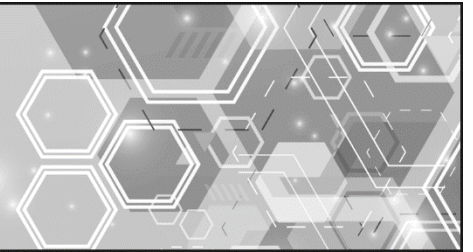




Durham Region Health Department Facts about...



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

What is it?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine protects against certain types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer, genital cancers, precancerous lesions, anal cancer, certain cancers of the head and neck, and genital warts. For more information, see [Facts About...Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#).

There are two HPV vaccines that are approved for use in Canada:

- Gardasil[®]9 protects against nine types of HPV (6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58) and is free for individuals that meet the current [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#) criteria.
- Cervarix[®] protects against two types of HPV (16 and 18) but is not free (publicly funded).

How effective is the vaccine?

The vaccine products available in Canada, are highly effective in protecting against cancers and genital warts associated with HPV:

- All HPV vaccines can prevent approximately 70% of anogenital cancers and 60% of high-risk precancerous cervical lesions.
- Gardasil[®]9 provides further protection against 14% of anogenital cancers, 30% of high-risk precancerous cervical lesions, and approximately 90% of genital warts.
- HPV vaccine produces a higher immune response during the preteen years than it does in older adolescents.
- HPV vaccines are most effective when given before a person is sexually active. The vaccine does not protect against HPV strains people are already infected with.

Who should get the vaccine?

Gardasil[®]9 is approved for females between 9 and 45 years of age, and males between 9 and 26 years of age. The following people are eligible to receive the HPV vaccine for free:

- Grade 7 to 12 students and eligible students who initiated their publicly funded HPV9 vaccine series prior to the end of their Grade 12 year (August 31) can complete their series with one or more doses of HPV9 vaccine(s) at a Health Department clinic.
- Men who have sex with men under the high-risk vaccine program.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



The vaccine may be recommended for others at risk for the disease, however, the vaccine would need to be purchased. Talk to your healthcare provider or check with your private health insurance if you are not eligible to receive the vaccine for free.

What is the schedule for the vaccine?

- Individuals who start the Gardasil®9 vaccine series between 9 to 14 years of age, receive two doses, 6 months apart.
- Those who start the vaccine series when they are 15 years of age or older, receive three doses at 0, 2 and 6 months.

Are there side effects with the vaccine?

- HPV vaccine is safe and well tolerated. Side effects are usually mild and last a short time.
- The most common side effects are injection site reaction (pain, redness, and/or swelling), fatigue, myalgia, headache, nausea and/or low-grade fever.
- If you think a serious reaction is developing, seek medical attention right away. Any unusual or significant changes in your health or your child's health after the immunization should be reported to a health care provider and the Health Department.

Who should NOT get the vaccine?

- If you have a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to any previous vaccine(s) or to any part of the vaccine.
- Anyone **less than** 9 years of age.

For more information on contents of the vaccine, refer to the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#).

Don't forget to update your immunization record!

For children in school or childcare, update the Health Department of your child's immunization(s). Health care providers do not routinely report immunizations to the Health Department.

- After you or your child receives a vaccine, update your immunization record (yellow card). Keep your records in a safe place.
- You can view immunizations online using the [Immunization Connect Ontario \(ICON\) tool](#) (also found at durham.ca/immunize). You have the option of uploading a photo of the record.
- Call the Health Department at 1-800-841-2729 or 905-666-6242 to provide the dates that the vaccines were received.

*Parents must contact the Health Department if you object to immunization based on conscience or religious beliefs, or if your child cannot be immunized for medical reasons.

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