

How effective is the vaccine?

HPV vaccination is a safe and reliable way to protect young people from getting a range of HPV related cancers and diseases. Females should also participate in cervical screening for best protection against cervical cancer.

Almost all HPV infections that cause abnormal cells and cancer can be prevented by the HPV vaccine.

Studies have shown that the vaccine is proving very effective in Australia. There has been a big decrease in HPV infections, pre-cancers of the cervix and genital warts.

The vaccine works best when given at a younger age and before exposure to HPV.



How safe is the vaccine?

HPV vaccines used in Australia are very safe. All HPV vaccines available in Australia have been thoroughly tested and 270 million doses have been given around the world.

The vaccine has been provided through school based programs in Australia since 2007 for females and 2013 for males. In Australia, as in other countries, there is ongoing monitoring of vaccine safety.

Some people might experience mild side effects from the vaccine. These can include:

- ✓ soreness, swelling and redness at the injection site
- ✓ mild temperature
- ✓ feeling faint and fainting.

Like other vaccines, a very small number of people can have an allergic reaction shortly after getting the vaccine. Vaccination providers are prepared to manage these types of reactions.

See your GP if you are worried about your child's reaction.

HPV
Vaccine

You can learn more about the safety of the HPV vaccine at the Therapeutic Goods Administration website tga.gov.au

HPV
Vaccine



Preventing human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers and diseases by vaccination

Helping to protect young people from a range of cancers and diseases caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV)

health.gov.au/immunisation

HPV Vaccine

Why get vaccinated?

The HPV vaccine prevents several cancers, including:

- ✓ cervical cancer in females
- ✓ vaginal and vulval cancers in females
- ✓ anal cancer in females and males
- ✓ throat cancers in females and males
- ✓ penile cancer in males.

The HPV vaccine also protects against almost all cases of genital warts in both males and females.

What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common, contagious virus that can cause cancers and diseases in both men and women.

It is mainly spread by contact during sexual activity.

Without vaccination, 90% of adults will have a HPV infection at some point in their life. There is no treatment to get rid of HPV infection.

In most people the virus causes no symptoms and goes away by itself, but sometimes it can persist and cause types of cancer or serious illness.

Key Facts

HPV can affect both males and females.

Females and males aged 12–13 can receive the HPV vaccine free of charge at school.

A consent form needs to be signed and returned to the school before the vaccination can be given.

How can I find out if my child is immunised?

The Australian Immunisation Register keeps a record of vaccinations given in Australia.

Immunisation history statements can be accessed at any time by using your Medicare online account through myGov (my.gov.au).

How do you get vaccinated?

The vaccine is provided free to children aged approximately 12–13 through school-based immunisation programs.

It involves getting two injections, six months apart. It is important to receive two doses to get the best possible protection against HPV.

Students eligible for a free vaccine will receive a consent form from their school. This consent form must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school before a vaccination is provided.

Delaying vaccination

Delaying vaccination to 15 years of age or older will mean that three doses are required instead of two. The National Immunisation Program only covers two doses for free.

Individuals who did not receive the vaccine at school are eligible for two free catch up doses up to 19 years of age.

Where can I get more information?

- ✓ **Speak to your doctor, practice nurse, or other immunisation provider.**
- ✓ **Visit health.gov.au/immunisation**