

HPV Vaccine

Human Papillomavirus

The **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine** is part of the routine Yukon Children's Immunization Program and is offered to children in grade 6. It is also provided for free to those between 9 and 26 years old, HIV positive individuals, and other high risk individuals. Additionally, it is recommended for all women between 27 and 45 years old (but it is not provided for free to those in this age range).

The **HPV vaccine** is a 2 or 3 dose series, depending on your age.

Human Papillomavirus can cause:

- Genital warts
- Cervical cancer
- Cancers of the anus, mouth and throat, penis, vagina and vulva

Complications may lead to:

- Invasive cancers
- Death

Why is the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine recommended?

Getting the HPV vaccine at an early age helps prevent HPV infections before you are at risk. Three out of 4 sexually active people will get HPV at some point in their lives. Most people infected with HPV do not have symptoms and can pass the virus onto others without knowing. HPV may clear on its own, but for some it may become cancerous.

The HPV-9 vaccine helps protect girls and women against cervical, vaginal, vulvar, anal and throat cancer, and genital warts caused by 9 types of HPV. The vaccine also helps protect boys and men against cancers of the penis, anus and throat, and genital warts caused by those same types of HPV.

HPV vaccines provide effective, safe, and long-lasting protection.

Possible side effects of the vaccine:

Common reactions to the immunization may include redness, tenderness, and swelling at the injection site. Some may develop a fever, headache, fatigue, or digestive problems. These are generally mild and last 1-2 days.

Side effects of the immunization are easily relieved by: Applying a cold/damp compress to the site and administering acetaminophen or ibuprofen for temperatures 38.5°C or higher. See your health care provider if your symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any immunization because there is a rare possibility of developing a severe allergic reaction which is treatable at the clinic. This happens to less than 1 in 1 million people. If it happens after you leave the clinic, call 911 or the local emergency number.

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