



Renfrew County and
District Health Unit

FACT SHEET

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE – GR 7 STUDENTS



Starting September 2017, students in grade 7 will be offered HPV9 series as part of the publicly funded immunization program. HPV9 vaccine protects against nine types of human papillomavirus (HPV).

What does this mean for my family?

If you have a son or daughter in grade 7, he or she will be offered the vaccine at school by a nurse from your public health unit. For most students, the vaccine is given with two injections, six months apart. Those that meet the high risk criteria will follow different recommendations.

What is HPV?

HPV is a virus that is very common around the world. It is estimated that without immunization, three out of four sexually active Canadians will get HPV in their lifetime. There are many different types of HPV and most people with HPV do not develop any signs or symptoms. However, some types of HPV can cause cervical and anogenital cancers as well as certain cancers of the head and neck. Fortunately, infections from most common cancer-causing types of HPV can be prevented with the HPV vaccine.

Why should my child get the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is recommended for boys and girls in early youth so they will be protected from HPV infections that cause cancer. It is important to vaccinate your son or daughter before they engage in sexual activity and are potentially exposed to HPV.

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How does the vaccine work?

The HPV vaccine protects against HPV infection. In fact, the vaccine protects against nine types of HPV, which cause 70 percent of cervical and anogenital cancers and 90 percent of genital warts.

Is the vaccine safe?

The HPV vaccine is very safe and effective. It has been carefully tested and is approved by Health Canada. In addition, Canada has a strong system in place to monitor the safety of the vaccine. The HPV vaccine is approved for use in more than 100 countries, and more than 175 million doses have been distributed around the world.

Can my child get HPV from the vaccine?

No. You cannot become infected with HPV from the HPV vaccine. The vaccine strengthens a person's immune system to protect against HPV.

When should I call my doctor/nurse practitioner?

Call your doctor/nurse practitioner or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if any of the following symptoms develop within 3 days of getting the vaccine:

- hives
- swelling of the face or mouth
- trouble breathing
- very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- high fever (over 40°C or 104°F)
- convulsions or seizures
- other serious problems.

Who should NOT get the HPV vaccine?

Your child should not receive the HPV vaccine if:

- they have already been fully vaccinated
- had a serious reaction to previous dose of the vaccine
- have a yeast allergy or an allergy to any component of the HPV vaccine (e.g. aluminum, sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate 80, sodium borate)
- are pregnant
- has a fever or an infection more serious than a cold – the vaccine should be rescheduled when these symptoms resolve.

You should always discuss the benefits and risks of any vaccine with your doctor/nurse practitioner or call Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

Who should I talk to if I have any more questions?

Talk to your doctor/nurse practitioner or call Renfrew County and District Health Unit Health Info Line at 613-735-8666 or 1-800-267-1097 Ext. 666.

How do I keep track of this vaccination?

After you get any vaccination, make sure your personal immunization record is updated. Keep it in a safe place!

Renfrew County and District Health Unit

7 International Drive
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613-735-8666 or
1-800-267-1097, Ext. 666

Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (2017), Canadian Immunization Guide 2016.

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