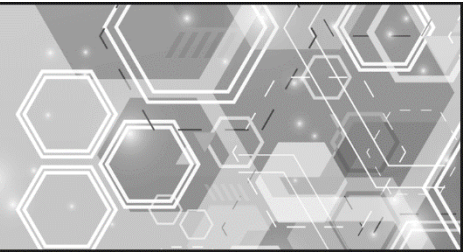




Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



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 (HPV-9) protects against nine types of HPV (6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58) and is publicly funded (free) for people who are eligible.
- Cervarix® protects against two types of HPV (16 and 18) but is not publicly funded (free).

How effective is the vaccine?

- All HPV vaccines can prevent approximately 70% of anogenital cancers and 60% of high-risk precancerous cervical lesions.
- HPV vaccines produce a higher immune response during the preteen years than in older adolescents.
- HPV-9 vaccine provides further protection against 14% of anogenital cancers, 30% of high-risk precancerous cervical lesions and approximately 90% of genital warts.
- The vaccines do not protect people who are already infected with HPV.

Who should get the vaccine?

HPV-9 vaccine is approved for females between 9 and 45 years of age, and males between 9 and 26 years of age. The following people can receive this **HPV vaccine for free** as per the current [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#):

- Grade 7 to 12 eligible students.
- Eligible students who started their HPV-9 vaccine series at a DRHD clinic before the end of their grade 12 year (August 31) can finish their series for free at a DRHD clinic.
- Men who have sex with men.

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The vaccine may be recommended for others at risk for the disease. Talk to your health care 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 HPV-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, get 3 doses at 0, 2 and 6 months.

Are there side effects with the vaccine?

- HPV vaccines are safe and well tolerated. Side effects are usually mild and last a short time.
- The most common side effects are redness, pain and swelling where the needle was given.
- 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?

- Anyone **less than** 9 years of age.
- Pregnant women.
- If you are sick with a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold, you should wait until you feel better.
- If you have a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to any previous vaccine(s) or to any part of the vaccine.

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

Don't forget to update your immunization record!

For children in school or child care, inform Durham Region Health Department of your child's vaccine. Health care providers do not report vaccines to the Health Department automatically. Keep your records updated and in a safe place.

After your child receives a vaccine, update Durham Region Health Department:

- Online at durham.ca/immunize (you may also attach a photo of your record).
- By calling 1-800-841-2729 or 905-666-6242.
- By faxing your vaccine/immunization record to 905-666-6216.

The Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON) tool allows you to see your child's vaccine/immunization record online anytime.

August 12, 2025