

Protect Your Child Against HPV-Related Cancers & Diseases

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is highly contagious and 75% of people will be exposed to the HPV virus over the course of their lifetime. **HPV affects all genders.**

In **GIRLS** and **BOYS** HPV can lead to six different cancers. It can also cause genital warts.

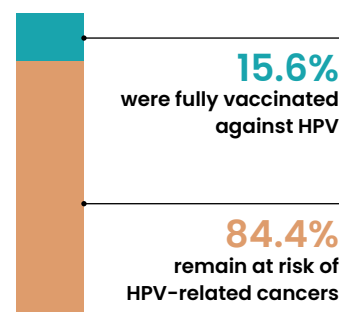


School-Based HPV Vaccination Programs

The HPV vaccine is available through public health for girls and boys within school-based vaccination programs. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends the HPV vaccine from age 9 onwards, but the age in each province varies.

Across Canada, the impact of the pandemic on school-based HPV vaccination programs remains concerning. For example, in Ontario, about 60% of 12-year-olds were fully vaccinated in 2018–19. The latest data, as of August 2022, shows that only 15.6% of 12-year-olds were fully vaccinated in the 2021–22 school year, leaving 84.4% at risk for HPV-related cancers.

Ontario 12-year-olds in the 2021–22 school year



Steps to Prevent HPV

1. Have a conversation

- Help your child understand that the HPV vaccine prevents HPV infections and HPV-related cancers and diseases.

2. Get vaccinated

- Vaccinating your child between the ages of 9 and 14 gives them the best protection against HPV related cancers and diseases in the future.
- When your child is between the ages of 9 and 14, they only require two doses of the HPV vaccine rather than three because their immune system is so robust at that age. After age 14, three doses are required.
- Be proactive in catching up on any missed doses within your child's school-based vaccination program. Schools, public health clinics, and family doctors may have opportunities for catching up.

How Can I Take Action Against HPV? Reach out to your child's health care provider or local public health unit to discuss these steps and ensure your child is protected against HPV-related cancers and diseases. Remember, HPV affects all Canadians, and it will take all of us to prevent it. Learn how adult women and men can be protected against HPV too by visiting canadavshpv.ca.

CANADA *vs* HPV

This information has been reviewed for accuracy by the Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC). Made possible through the financial support of Merck Canada Inc. The opinions expressed are those of its authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Merck Canada Inc.

