



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - Gardasil®

The HPV vaccine, Gardasil® protects against infections caused by four common types of HPV; 6, 11, 16, and 18. There is another HPV vaccine available called Gardasil®9, which provides protection against 5 other types of HPV, however it is not currently publicly funded in Ontario.

Who should get this vaccine?

- This vaccine is now offered to all grade 7 students as part of the school immunization program. It was previously only available to girls in grade 8.
- Girls in grade 8 in 2016/2017 will also be offered this vaccine in the school immunization program to ensure they do not miss the opportunity to receive this vaccine. Girls who were previously eligible to receive the vaccine have until the end of high school to complete their vaccine series.
- This vaccine is also publicly funded (free) for men who have sex with men (MSM) up to 26 years of age. This includes gay, bisexual and trans people who identify as MSM. This vaccine is also recommended for women up to 46 years of age, however they would have to purchase this vaccine. Some health plans may cover the cost.

How well does this vaccine work? ¹

In women 16-26 years of age:

- Protection against cervical cancer is nearly 100%.
- Protection against genital lesions (e.g. warts) is 95%-99%.

In men 16-26 years of age:

- Protection against genital lesions (e.g. warts) is 84%-100%.
- Protection against anal/genital cancer is 70%-96%.

Is there an alternative to this vaccine? ¹

One way a person can protect themselves is through long-term abstinence from sexual contact. Condoms do not provide protection from HPV. Once sexually active, regular pap tests are still recommended to check for changes in the cervix.

Is this vaccine safe?

The risk of a serious reaction or side effect from this vaccine is much less than the risk of HPV. If you experience any side effect worse than what is listed below, please seek medical advice and notify the health unit.

Common side effects of this vaccine ¹

- Pain in the muscle
- Swelling
- Redness
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Fever
- Nausea

Who should not receive this vaccine? ¹

- Anyone with an allergy to any of the vaccine components or who has had an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine.
- Pregnant women.

What is in this vaccine? ^{1, 2}

Gardasil® ^{2, 3, 5}	Also found in...
Aluminum	Breast milk, Infant formula
L-histidine	Milk, Fish
Polysorbate 80	Ice Cream
Sodium borate	Water
Sodium chloride	Table salt
Yeast Protein	Bread

What else do I need to know?

It is important that people complete the series of this vaccine to ensure the best protection. It is also important for you to keep a current record of your vaccines.

References

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 4-Active Vaccines: Human Papillomavirus Vaccine. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information 2013. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4th ed.). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015.