

HPV Vaccination for All Pupils in Year 8

HPV VACCINE

- Is a single dose vaccine that is offered to pupils in Year 8 to prevent HPV infection
- Protects against two high risk HPV types that cause cancers, including cancer of the cervix, head and neck, penile and rectal cancers
- Has been used in the UK since 2008. There is evidence from Scotland, England, Australia and Denmark that it has had a major impact on HPV infections
- Has been given to over 80 million people worldwide, but it is important to keep vaccination rates high to stop HPV rates increasing again

You only need to complete one consent form for each child. If you later change your mind, please call your local team. If your child has this immunisation elsewhere after you have submitted the consent form, you **MUST** inform Vaccination UK rather than the school.

We understand that you may have questions about the vaccine. For more information, please go to our website, where you can find a list of FAQs, as well as details of our community catch up clinics. There are also some FAQs attached.

You can also find informational videos on our YouTube channel, including subtitled versions for other languages.

Yours faithfully,

Year 8 Local Immunisation Team
Vaccination UK

Frequently Asked Questions



Q WHAT IS HPV (HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS)?

The human papillomavirus is very common and it is caught through intimate sexual contact with another person who already has it. Because it is a very common infection, most people will get it during their lifetime. There are many different types of HPV. Most HPV infections do not cause any symptoms and get better on their own. However, some do not clear up and can lead to cancer whilst others cause genital warts.

Q WHICH CANCERS ARE CAUSED BY HPV?

The human papillomavirus increases the risk of developing some cancers in later life including cervical cancer (cancer of the entrance to the womb), some mouth and throat cancers and some cancers of the anus and genital area. HPV causes more than 99% of all cervical cancer, the most common cancer among women under the age of 35. Most vaginal, vulval, penile and anal cancers are also caused by HPV.

Q WHAT IS THE HPV VACCINE AND WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED IT NOW?

The HPV vaccine protects against two high risk HPV types that cause cancer, including most cases of cervical cancer. Having this vaccine will also protect your child against the types of HPV that cause the majority of cases of genital warts. The vaccine works best when given at age 12-13, when the immune system is strong and before your son or daughter becomes sexually active. Both boys and girls need to get this vaccine because HPV infection is so common and easily transmitted.

Q HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

Over 80 million people have received the vaccine worldwide. In time it is expected that the vaccine will save hundreds of lives every year in the UK. A Scottish study has already shown a 71% reduction in pre-cancerous cervical disease in young women. In the years since the start of the vaccination