

What should you do if your daughter has a reaction to HPV vaccine?

For pain or swelling where the injection was given, apply a cool moist towel to the area for about 15 minutes. Repeat as necessary. Use acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol®) if your daughter has pain or fever.

Note: ASA (e.g. Aspirin®) is not recommended for individuals younger than 18 years of age because of the increased risk of Reye's Syndrome.

If you have any questions or if your daughter has an unusual reaction to the vaccine, call your nurse or doctor.

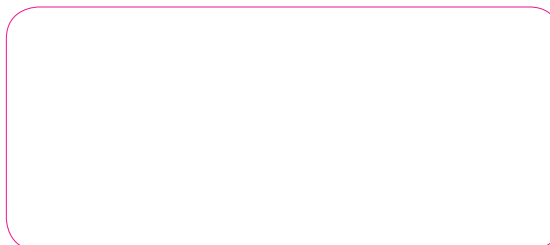
Your daughter should not get the vaccine if she has had a severe reaction (anaphylaxis) to this vaccine in the past.

Will the vaccine replace cervical cancer screening (Pap tests) in the future?

No, cervical cancer screening is still recommended for women, including those who have received the HPV vaccine.

Not all types of cervical cancer are caused by the HPV types represented in the vaccine. Cervical cancer screening will continue to be important in the early detection of pre-cancerous and cancerous changes to the cervix.

For more information call your local public health clinic or Tele-Care Health Line at 1-888-255-1010.



HPV

The facts about Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and HPV Vaccine



If you would like this information in another official language, contact us at (867) 920-3367.

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What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the name of a family of viruses that can cause cervical cancer and skin and genital warts.

HPV infection is a very common infection spread primarily through sexual contact. Seven out of ten women can expect to be infected with HPV over their life-time. HPV causes about 99% of cervical cancers.

Persistent HPV infections can lead to changes in the cells of the cervix and eventually to cervical cancer.

- On average in the NWT, there are 466 procedures done each year for abnormal changes in the cervix.
- The NWT had 14 new cases of invasive cervical cancer over the last 10 years.
- During this same period, 5 NWT women died from invasive cervical cancer.

What are the symptoms of HPV?

Most HPV infections do not cause symptoms and usually go away by themselves. It may take one to two years for the infection to disappear. However, in some people HPV infections do not go away and can lead to cervical cancer. Abnormal cervical cells can be detected by the Pap test.

Will HPV vaccine prevent cervical cancer?

Yes, HPV vaccine prevents cervical cancer. It provides protection against four types of HPV virus:

- types 16 and 18 that cause about 70% of cervical cancers
- types 6 and 11 that cause about 90% of genital warts

Is the HPV vaccine safe?

Yes, the vaccine is safe. In Canada, each new vaccine undergoes laboratory and field-testing and must pass a rigorous licensing procedure with the federal government before it is introduced. Once a vaccine is approved, every lot is tested for safety and quality. In addition, all reported side effects are monitored to ensure continued safety of the vaccine.

What are the side effects of HPV vaccine?

Some people may have mild side effects such as pain, redness, itchiness and swelling at the place where the needle was given. Less commonly, a slight fever, nausea, dizziness, headache or vomiting may occur.

Side effects are usually mild to moderate and only last for a day or two. As with other vaccines fainting has occurred infrequently. Also, unexpected or unusual reactions can occur. Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) are rare, occurring at an estimated annual rate of one report per 1,000,000 doses of vaccine in Canada.

How effective is the HPV vaccine?

In clinical trials, the vaccine has been found to provide nearly 100% protection against these 4 strains of HPV if given before initiation of sexual activity. From a cost-effectiveness perspective, the HPV vaccine compares favorably with other immunization programs or other preventative investments.

For example, one needs to immunize:

- 324 girls to prevent 1 case of cervical cancer
- 729 girls to prevent 1 cervical cancer death
- 34,000 people to prevent 1 death from varicella (chicken pox)
- 21,000 people to prevent 1 death from invasive meningococcal disease
- 5,000 people to prevent 1 death from influenza

Who should receive HPV vaccine?

HPV immunization is offered free of charge to all girls in grade 4. A catch-up program will also be offered over the next 5 years for girls in grades 9-12.

The vaccine is given at school as a series of three doses over a six-month period. At this time, HPV vaccine is only licensed for use in girls and younger women.