



What is HPV?

HPV stands for human papillomavirus. It is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections among males and females in Canada. Most infections will clear within 2 years and cause no physical symptoms, but others can lead to genital warts or cancer.

HPV and cancer

In Canada, about two-thirds of HPV-associated cancers occur in areas other than the cervix. HPV infection is associated with about:

- 80%–90% of anal cancers
- 40% of vaginal and vulvar cancers
- 40%–50% of penile cancers
- 25%–35% of mouth and throat cancers

Preventing HPV

Vaccines are available that can protect against the most common types of HPV that cause cancer. The Canadian Cancer Society recommends that Canadians get vaccinated to reduce their risk of HPV-associated cancer.

If you are sexually active, you can also reduce your risk by:

- having as few sexual partners as possible
- being in a monogamous relationship with someone who hasn't had a lot of sexual partners
- using condoms

Using a condom can reduce HPV infection if it is put on before skin-to-skin sexual contact. However, areas not covered by a condom still allow some skin-to-skin contact during sexual activity. So using condoms will reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of HPV infection.

Consider getting vaccinated

- Girls and women between the ages of 9 and 45 should be vaccinated against HPV. The vaccination should be used along with, not instead of, cervical cancer screening.
- Boys and young men between the ages of 9 and 26 should be vaccinated against HPV.
- Have your children vaccinated through Saskatchewan's school-based program. If you or your children are not eligible for a free vaccination, talk to your public health office about which vaccine is right for you and when you should have it. Some private insurance companies will pay for the vaccination for you and your children.

For more information call 1-888-939-3333 or visit cancer.ca