

I'd like my child to have the vaccine.

What do I do now?

The vaccine is being made available to children and adults living with HIV under 26 years of age through existing HIV services in Ireland. The National Immunisation Advisory committee recommends **three** doses for all people living with HIV who are receiving HPV vaccination.

The schools immunisation programme for HPV vaccination of adolescent girls gives two doses to girls <15 years of age. All people living with HIV should have 3 doses to get the most benefit. Therefore adolescent girls living with HIV should inform their HIV clinic when they are scheduled to receive the vaccine, so it can be organised that they receive the 2nd dose of vaccine (1 to 2 months after the first dose) at their HIV clinic. Adolescent boys will be vaccinated through paediatric HIV services.

Please ask your clinic nurse or doctor for more details.

HPV vaccination record

You will receive a record of your child's HPV vaccinations.

Remember to be protected, all three doses are needed!



Adapted from Public Health England
HPV Vaccination leaflet.

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For more information on HPV, the vaccine and its safety, visit:

www.hpv.ie



HPV VACCINATION
PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR

PARENTS OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH HIV

Protecting your child against warts & cancer
caused by human papillomavirus



From October 2016, the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is available through HIV clinics to HIV positive males and females under 26 years of age

Children living with HIV under 16 years of age, are vaccinated either through the schools immunisation programme in 1st year of second level school (adolescent girls) or through paediatric HIV services (adolescent boys). HIV positive males and females aged 16 and older, are vaccinated through adult HIV services.

The HPV vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of genital warts and cancers caused by HPV. This leaflet includes information about the HPV vaccine, the diseases that it will help to protect against and how to help prevent your child from developing these diseases in the future.

What is human papillomavirus (HPV) and what diseases can it cause?

HPV infection is a very common infection. The majority of HPV infections do not cause any symptoms and infections usually clear up on their own.

There are over 100 different types of HPV that can infect the skin and mucous membranes (for example the vagina, anus and cervix). Persistence of some types of HPV infections can lead to cancers e.g. HPV types 16 and 18 cause the majority of HPV associated cancers, notably anal, throat and penile in men and cervical cancer in women. Other types of HPV such as 6 and 11 cause more than 90% of genital warts.

How is HPV infection spread?

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection worldwide. It is most common in young people, with three out of every four 15 to 24 year olds having a HPV infection. HPV is spread mainly by skin to skin contact. Genital HPV infections are usually associated with sexual contact. Nearly all sexually active people get infected with HPV at some point in their lives. The risk increases with the number of sexual partners a person has.

Can HPV infection be prevented?

Condoms reduce the likelihood of HPV infection but do not guarantee protection from infection. This is because HPV can be transmitted by skin contact with areas not covered by condoms.

The best way to be protected from HPV infection in the future is to get vaccinated. The vaccine we offer is called Gardasil. It protects against the four HPV types 16, 18, 6 and 11 that are responsible for causing cancers and genital warts.

Children and adults living with HIV need a course of 3 HPV injections over 6-12 months.

WHAT DO I NEED?
From 9 to 25 years of age
1st dose
2nd dose at least 1 month and preferably 2 months after the first dose
3rd dose at least 3 months and preferably 4 months after the second dose and ideally within 12 months of the first dose

Ideally, vaccine should be given before a person becomes sexually active, but the protection is still good even if they receive the vaccine later.

To get the best protection, it is important to receive the full course of vaccination.

Why should children living with HIV attending HIV clinics be vaccinated?

People living with HIV are at increased risk of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. Following exposure, people living with HIV are more likely to experience persistent HPV infection and HPV associated disease due to related immune dysfunction.

The risk of cervical, anal and penile cancers are higher in men and women living with HIV than the general population.

HPV vaccination is a very effective way to reduce the risk of developing HPV-associated cancer and genital warts in the future.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. For more than 10 years the safety of the HPV vaccine has been strictly monitored and frequently reviewed by many international bodies including:

- The European Medicines Agency (EMA);
- The Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety of the World Health Organization;
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the US.

These international bodies have continually reported that the vaccine is safe with no known long-term side effects.

More than 660,000 doses of this vaccine have been distributed in Ireland and almost a quarter of a million vaccinated.

More than 220 million doses of this vaccine have been distributed worldwide.

More than 100 million people have been safely vaccinated against HPV disease.

Does it have any side effects?

The most common side effects are pain, redness or swelling in the arm where the vaccine was given, headache, dizziness, nausea and/or a mild fever.

These can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen.

Occasionally teenagers faint after getting the HPV vaccine. Like most vaccines, severe allergic reactions are extremely rare. As always, seek medical advice if you are concerned.