



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

What is Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV), is a group of more than 100 different types of viruses. More than 40 types of HPV are spread through sexual contact. These types can infect the genital areas of people of all genders. HPV can cause genital warts and several types of cancer including: cervical, vaginal, vulvar, anal, penile, throat and mouth.

How can I prevent HPV?

The HPV vaccine works very well! HPV is a vaccine preventable disease. The Canadian Cancer Society recommends that Canadians get vaccinated to reduce their risk of HPV-related cancer. The vaccine can only *prevent* certain types of HPV, rather than *cure* it, which is why it is available for students starting in grade 6.

What are the benefits of the HPV Vaccine?

- It can prevent many common types of cancer;
- It can prevent genital warts; and
- Getting vaccinated can also protect others.

Is the vaccine safe?

The HPV vaccine is very safe. More than 200 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been given safely worldwide. Over 15 years of safety monitoring show that the HPV vaccine is safe and effective.

Who should get vaccinated?

In BC, the HPV vaccination is free for:

- All children in Grade 6 (ages 11-12);
- Youth and/or adults born in 2006 or later who missed their Grade 6 vaccination;
- HIV-positive people 9-26 years of age;
- Transgender or two-spirit people 9-26 years of age; and
- Males 9 to 26 years of age who have sex with other males.

If you have any questions about the HPV vaccine, please visit www.fnha.ca/hpv