

HPV (Human Papillomavirus) One-Time Vaccine Program for Young Women

What is the HPV Vaccine One-Time Vaccine Program for Young Women?

B.C. is providing the HPV vaccine called Cervarix® at no cost to young women who are ≤ 26 years old and born before 1994. Cervarix® protects against the 2 types of human papillomaviruses that cause 7 out of 10 cases of cancer of the cervix. You can get the vaccine from your doctor, pharmacist, youth clinic, sexual health clinic and student health centre.

If free vaccine is no longer available when you come for your next dose, you can purchase the vaccine at a cost of about \$110/dose. Some drug insurance plans may cover the cost.

When should I get the Cervarix® HPV vaccine? The vaccine is given as a series of 3 doses given by needle in the arm. All 3 doses are needed for complete protection. The second dose should be given 1 month after the first dose and the third dose should be given 5 months after the second dose.

What are the benefits of the Cervarix® HPV vaccine?

The Cervarix® vaccine prevents almost 100 percent of HPV infections due to types 16 and 18 that cause 7 out of 10 cases of cancer of the cervix. The vaccine does not protect against HPV types that cause genital warts. It is best to get the HPV vaccine before becoming sexually active and coming in contact with HPV, but you are likely to benefit from the vaccine even if already sexually active. The vaccine does not cure HPV infections that have already occurred.

It is important for women to get regular Pap tests once they become sexually active. The HPV vaccine protects against most but not all cancers of the cervix.

What are possible reactions after the vaccine?

- The vaccine is safe and has few side effects. Common reactions include soreness, redness and swelling in the arm where the shot was given, fatigue, muscle or joint ache, or headache. These last one or a few days.
- For any vaccine, there is an extremely rare chance of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue, lips or eyes. If this happens, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number. This reaction can be treated, and occurs in less than one in a million people who get the vaccine. It is important to stay in the clinic or pharmacy for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine in case you develop allergic symptoms.

- Acetaminophen may be used to treat soreness and muscle ache. ASA or Aspirin® should NOT be used by anyone under 20 years of age due to the risk of Reye Syndrome.
- Report any serious or unexpected reactions to your health care provider.

Who should not get the vaccine?

The vaccine is not recommended for:

- People who have had a life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of HPV vaccine or to any component of the vaccine or to latex.
- Pregnant women. Women who get the vaccine without knowing that they are pregnant should not get any more doses until after their pregnancy but the vaccine is not known to be harmful to the foetus.

What is HPV and who can get it?

HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections. Three out of four sexually active women will get HPV at some point in their lives. Anyone who has any kind of sexual activity involving genital, anal or oral contact can get HPV. You can get infected without having sexual intercourse.

What happens when you are infected with HPV?

Most women do not show any signs or symptoms and can pass the virus on to others without even knowing it. Most often an HPV infection goes away by itself but for some women cells that are infected with the virus can become cancerous over time.

Every year in B.C.:

- 150 women will get cervical cancer and 40 will die from the disease.
- 6,000 women will develop high risk changes to the cervix which are precancerous.
- 10,000 invasive procedures will be done to prevent pre-cancerous changes in the cervix from turning into cancer.

PLEASE TURN OVER ----->

Your record of immunization is important for your future health care

The best way to keep a permanent record is to enter your information into an electronic immunization registry. You or your immunization provider can do this by sending the completed form to fax: 604 707 2515.

As well, keep this form for your records.

PLEASE PRINT WITHIN THE BOXES IN CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS USING BLACK OR DARK BLUE INK.

Last name Example D O E

First name Example J A N E

Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD) / / Example 1 9 9 1 / 0 1 / 0 1

Personal Health (BC CareCard) Number Example 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0

Cervarix doses administered:

Dose # 1: Date Given / / Next dose due on / /
 (YYYY/MM/DD) (YYYY/MM/DD)
 1 month after dose #1

Dose # 2: Date Given / / Next dose due on / /
 (YYYY/MM/DD) (YYYY/MM/DD)
 5 months after dose #2

Dose # 3: Date Given / /
 (YYYY/MM/DD)

Authorization

I hereby authorize BC Centre for Disease Control to receive this record of immunization and enter it into the provincial immunization registry. In the future, I may ask BCCDC to remove this information from the immunization registry by sending a written request to BCCDC at fax: 604 707 2515.

Signature: _____ Date (YYYY/MM/DD) / /

BCCDC is collecting your personal information for the purpose of entering it into the provincial immunization registry as your permanent record of immunization. The collection of your information is in accordance with section 26(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions about the collection and use of your information, you may contact BCCDC Immunization Program by telephone at 604 707 2548.

Your information will be kept confidential. Summary statistical information may be reported to the Ministry of Health. The information will be used to evaluate the HPV immunization program. You may be contacted to ask whether you would like to participate in the evaluation of the HPV immunization program.

For a text reminder of future doses after you receive your 1st dose, text 604 227 4474 or see www.dontgetcancer.ca/save-the-date.