



**Renfrew County and
District Health Unit**

FACT SHEET

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE GRADE 7 STUDENTS



Students in grade 7 are offered HPV-9 vaccine as part of Ontario's school-based immunization program and the publicly funded immunization schedule. The vaccine protects against nine types of human papillomavirus (HPV).

What does this mean for my family?

If you have a son or daughter in grade 7, he or she will be offered the vaccine at school by a nurse from your public health unit. For most students, the vaccine is given as two doses, six months apart. Those that meet the high risk conditions will follow a different schedule.

What is HPV?

HPV, short for human papillomavirus, is a very common virus worldwide. There are many different types of HPV and most people with HPV do not develop any signs or symptoms. Some types of HPV can cause life-threatening diseases such as; cervical, penile, head, neck and other cancers. Other types of HPV can cause skin lesions such as genital warts.

It is estimated that without immunization, three out of four (75%) sexually active Canadians will get HPV in their lifetime. Fortunately, infections from the most common types of HPV can be prevented with the HPV vaccine.

When should my child get the HPV vaccine?

For maximum protection, the HPV vaccine is recommended for boys and girls in early youth before becoming sexually active. The HPV-9 vaccine is administered in 2 doses given at least six months apart. Those under 26 years of age can speak to a primary health care provider or local public health unit to see if they qualify for publicly funded vaccine or the vaccine can be purchased privately with a prescription. It may be covered through private insurance.

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"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

How does the vaccine work?

The HPV vaccine provides protection against infection with the HPV types that are in the vaccine. In fact, the vaccine protects against nine types of HPV, which cause 70% of cervical, anal, and penile cancers and 90% of genital warts. The vaccine works best when people are vaccinated before they become sexually active, however the vaccine is still recommended for those who are already sexually active. This is because they may not have been infected with HPV through previous sexual activity, and are unlikely to be infected with all of the types of HPV contained in the vaccine.

Is the vaccine safe?

The HPV vaccine is very safe and effective. It has been carefully tested and is approved by Health Canada. The HPV vaccine is approved for use in more than 100 countries, and more than 175 million doses have been distributed around the world.

Most individuals will have no side effects from the vaccine; however, if they do happen, they tend to be mild and may include soreness or redness where the vaccine was given. Other side effects such as headache, dizziness and nausea may occur.

When should I call my doctor/nurse practitioner?

Call your doctor/nurse practitioner or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if any of the following symptoms develop within 3 days of getting the vaccine:

- hives
- swelling of the face or mouth
- trouble breathing
- very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- high fever (over 40°C or 104°F)
- convulsions or seizures

Who should NOT get the vaccine?

Your child should not receive the HPV vaccine if:

- they have already received the recommended doses
- had a serious reaction to an earlier dose of the vaccine
- an allergy to any part of the HPV vaccine (e.g. aluminum, sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate 80, sodium borate)

You should always discuss the benefits and risks of any vaccine with your doctor/nurse practitioner or call Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

Who should I talk to if I have any more questions?

Talk to your health care provider or call Renfrew County and District Health Unit Health Info Line at 613-735-8666 or 1-800-267-1097 Ext. 666.

How do I keep track of this vaccination?

After you get any vaccination, make sure your personal immunization record is updated. Keep it in a safe place!

To contact us or for more information	
	613-735-8653 or 1-800-267-1097
	www.rcdhu.com Healthy Living Immunization Grade 7 Immunizations
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Source: Ministry of Health and Long Term Care 2017, Canadian Immunization Guide 2016.

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