

# WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW

How do I know if I have HPV?

The lack of symptoms means that men and women don't even know if they have HPV or are spreading it. For women to find out, they have to take a special type of pap test, but there isn't an HPV test for men.

At what age should I get vaccinated?

The HPV vaccine is given to both boys and girls around the age of 9 and up to the age of 45.



## MORE INFO

WATCH THE VIDEO



Alberta First Nations Information  
Governance Centre

# Protecting Your Future

WITH THE HPV VACCINE



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# HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV)

## WHAT IS IT? WHO GETS IT? HOW IS IT SPREAD AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS?

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted virus and over 80 percent of sexually active people will have it at least once in their lives.

There are over one hundred different types of HPV. The immune system can fight and clear many of these strains but some can cause severe health issues including cancer.



## WHY IT MATTERS



Cervical cancer is the 4th most common cancer rate among women worldwide. In 2022, there were around 660,000 new cases and about 350,000 deaths.

Cervical cancer rates in Alberta are 2.6 times higher among First Nations compared to non-First Nations women.



For boys and men, HPV can cause genital warts and cancers of the penis, anus, or the throat.



## THE HPV VACCINE

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Side effects of the vaccine can include soreness or swelling in the arm, fever, headache, and feeling sick or nauseous. These are common vaccine side effects and can go away in a few days. The HPV vaccine is considered safe because of strong testing before it was released.

Being well-informed about the procedure is called informed consent. You will want to discuss your decision with your parent or caregiver so they can sign the consent form. In some situations, you as a youth, can give consent as long as you are informed about the virus, the vaccine and the side effects.

GETTING THE HPV VACCINE IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN TAKING CARE OF YOUR BODY AND LEADING A HEALTHY LIFE BECAUSE IT PREVENTS HPV-RELATED DISEASES, INCLUDING SOME CANCERS.

