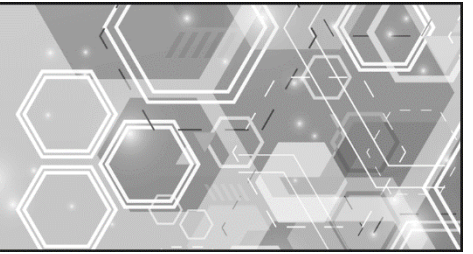




Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

What is it?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine protects against certain types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer, genital cancers, precancerous lesions, anal cancer, certain cancers of the head and neck, and genital warts. For more information, see [Facts About...Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#).

There are two HPV vaccines available in Canada:

- GARDASIL®9 (HPV-9) protects against nine types of HPV (6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58) and is free for people who are eligible.
- CERVARIX® protects against two types of HPV (16 and 18) and is not free.

How effective is the vaccine?

- All HPV vaccines can prevent approximately 70% of anogenital cancers, 60% of high-risk precancerous cervical lesions, and 90% of genital warts.
- The vaccines do not protect people who are already infected with HPV.

Who should get the vaccine?

HPV-9 vaccine is approved and recommended for females between 9 and 45 years of age, and males between 9 and 26 years of age. The following people can receive this **HPV vaccine for free**:

- Grade 7 to 12 eligible students.
- Eligible students who started their HPV-9 vaccine series before the end of their grade 12 year (August 31) can finish their series for free at a Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) clinic.
- People who are at increased risk due to lifestyle factors.

The vaccine may be recommended for others at risk for the disease. Talk to your health care provider or check with your private health insurance if you are not eligible to receive the vaccine for free.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



What is the schedule for the vaccine?

- Individuals who start the HPV-9 vaccine series between 9 to 14 years of age, receive two doses, 6 months apart.
- Those who start the vaccine series when they are 15 years of age or older, get 3 doses at 0, 2 and 6 months.

Are there side effects with the vaccine?

- HPV vaccines are safe and well tolerated. Side effects are usually mild and last a short time.
- The most common side effects are redness, pain and swelling where the needle was given.
- If you think a serious reaction is developing, seek medical attention right away.

Any unusual or significant changes in your health or your child's health after the immunization should be reported to a health care provider and the Health Department.

Who should NOT get the vaccine?

- Anyone **less than** 9 years of age.
- If you have previously completed the HPV-9 vaccine series.
- If you are sick with a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold, you should wait until you feel better.
- If you have a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to any previous vaccine(s) or to any part of the vaccine.

For more information on contents of the vaccine, please refer to the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#).

Don't forget to update your immunization record!

For children in school or child care, inform Durham Region Health Department of your child's vaccine. Health care providers do not report vaccines to the Health Department automatically. Keep your records updated and in a safe place.

After your child receives a vaccine, update Durham Region Health Department:

- Online at durham.ca/immunize (you may also attach a photo of your record).
- By calling 1-800-841-2729 or 905-666-6242.
- By faxing your vaccine/immunization record to 905-666-6216.

The [Immunization Connect Ontario \(ICON\)](#) tool allows you to see your child's vaccine/immunization record online anytime.

September 15, 2026