



July 2011

Information sheet

Community and Health Services Department



Gardasil[®] Vaccine

(Human Papillomavirus Vaccine)

Gardasil[®] is a vaccine that protects against four types of the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is a virus that can cause cancer of the cervix and genital warts

- It is available for females aged nine to 26
- It is given as an injection in the upper arm
- Three doses of the vaccine are required for complete protection
- There should be at least one month between the first two doses, and three months between the second and third doses
- All three doses should be received within one year

Side effects may include:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
 - Headache, dizziness, fever, nausea
- Severe side effects are rare.

People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have a fever or are fighting a recent infection
- Have an allergy to yeast or aluminum
- Have a complicated health condition
- Are pregnant

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- HPV is a common sexually transmitted virus, with more than 100 different strains
- Some strains of HPV can cause cancer of the cervix
- Other strains of HPV can cause genital warts
- HPV spreads from person to person through skin to skin contact with the genital area, even without sexual intercourse
- Many people become infected with HPV without ever developing symptoms
- HPV infection is more likely to affect those people who have sex at an early age, have many sexual partners, or have sex with people who have (had) many partners

For further information, please call:

York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653

TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca