

Gardasil® Vaccine Information Sheet

(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, anus, vagina, and vulva) and genital warts

- It can be given to females aged 9 to 45 years old, and males aged 9 to 26 years old
- It is given as an injection in the upper arm
- Three doses 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

Note: The vaccine is publicly-funded for girls in Grades 8 through 12

Mild side effects may occur, such as:

- 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 ever had a severe reaction to a vaccine. It is best to speak to a health care provider when there are complicated health concerns or previous severe reactions to vaccines
- Have an allergy to yeast
- Are pregnant. As safety data is limited, it is best to wait until after pregnancy to start or complete the vaccine

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

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