



Q. Why is HPV vaccination relevant to my child at this age when they are not sexually active?"

A. HPV is a common virus that can be passed via skin-to-skin contact, not just through sex. Vaccination against HPV is most effective when given before exposure to HPV, so it is first offered to 12 and 13-year-olds as part of the NHS National Immunisation Programme.

They may be young now, but later in life, your child could be at risk of developing certain cancers caused by HPV. For most people, HPV clears on its own. But for those who don't clear the virus, it can lead to certain HPV-related cancers and diseases over time.

Q. Why do boys need to be vaccinated against HPV?

A. Boys can also be affected by certain HPV-related cancers and diseases like anal cancer, head & neck cancer and genital warts in later life. In 2019 the HPV National Immunisation Programme was extended to include boys born AFTER 1st September 2006 up until their 25th birthday. Also, there are no HPV screening programs for men and usually no symptoms of the virus, so HPV infection can remain undetected in men.

Q. How common is HPV-related cancer, and is it really a cause for concern?

A. Each year in the UK, there are 3,256 new cases of cervical cancer and 1,557 new cases of anal cancer. Vaccination can help protect your son or daughter against certain HPV-related cancers and diseases in later life such as:

- Cervical cancer
- Genital warts
- Anal cancer

HPV can also increase the risk of some types of head and neck cancer, including oropharyngeal cancer (a type of throat cancer) and mouth cancer. Around 70% of these cancers are linked to HPV.

Q. How effective is HPV vaccination?

A. In the UK, HPV vaccination has **significantly reduced** the incidence of cervical cancer in young women.

For example, a study in Scotland detected **no cases** of cervical cancer in women who were vaccinated before the age of 14.

There were 239 cases of invasive cervical cancer, **none** of which occurred in any of the women who were vaccinated with 2 doses before the age of 14 years.

HPV vaccination has also resulted in a **large decline** in the rate of genital warts seen in young men and women.

Q. I am worried about the potential side effects of vaccination.

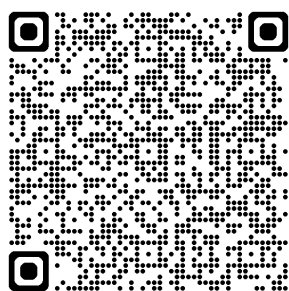
A. **Over 10 million doses of HPV vaccines have been given in the UK in over 10 years.**

The side effects commonly seen with HPV vaccination are mild such as redness, swelling or pain at the site of injection and headaches.

Q. Does HPV vaccination contain any animal products?

A. HPV vaccination in the UK **does not** contain pork or gelatine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION USE THESE LINKS:



UKHSA HPV Leaflet

<https://bit.ly/3Q2wBpf>



NHS HPV Vaccine

<https://bit.ly/48YWwVJ>

[The HPV vaccine | Cancer Research UK](#)

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