

Protecting Your Child Against Human Papillomavirus (HPV): For Parents

It is estimated that around 75% of sexually active Canadians who have not been immunized against HPV will have an HPV infection at some point in their life.

Getting your child vaccinated against human papillomavirus (HPV) before they become sexually active ensures that if they do decide to have sex later on in life, they are protected against HPV. **Even partaking in sexual activities for the first time can expose someone to HPV**, so it is better to protect against HPV infection sooner rather than later.



While most HPV infections will go away on their own and not cause any symptoms, infection can sometimes lead to genital warts and cancers such as cervical, penile, and neck cancers.

HPV is mainly spread through sex involving **skin-to-skin** contact. Although rare, HPV can also be passed **from birthing parent to baby during childbirth**, if the birthing parent has a genital HPV infection.

HPV vaccines are safe and the most effective way to prevent HPV infection.

Talk to your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or local public health office about getting the HPV vaccine for yourself or for your child/adolescent.

