



The BC Pediatric Society

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PREVENTING HPV CANCERS

HPV stands for Human Papillomavirus



HPV is a known cause of many types of cancers and genital warts



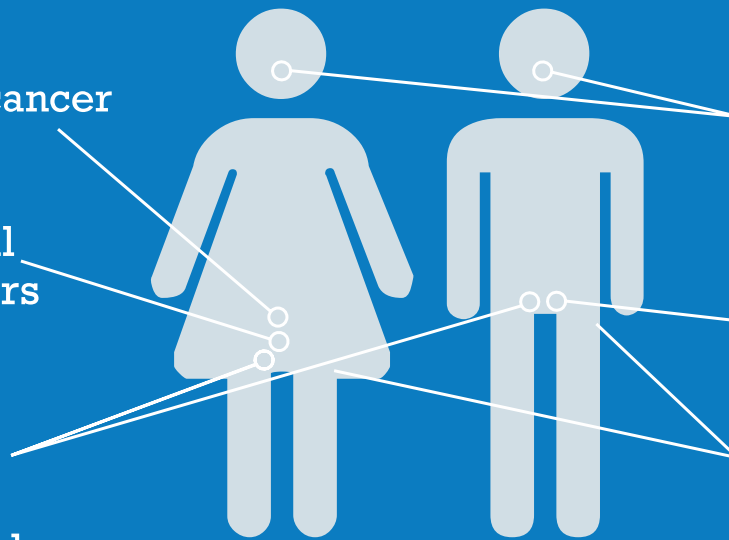
Most of us will have HPV at some point in our lives
75% to 90% of the population

The human papillomavirus (HPV) causes:

almost **ALL** cases of cervical cancer

40% of vaginal and vulvar cancers

over **90%** of genital warts in males and females



65-74% of mouth and throat cancers

40-50% of penile cancers

about **80-90%** of anal cancers

Image courtesy of BC Centre for Disease Control

HPV is spread through close sexual contact; penetration is not needed to spread the virus



DON'T WAIT!
Protect your kids from HPV cancers.

Ask your Pharmacist, Doctor, Nurse or Public Health Unit about the HPV Vaccine today.



Did you know?

- HPV vaccination for boys and girls is part of the regular grade 6 immunization program in BC.
- HPV vaccine works best when:
 - the vaccine is given to pre-teens because they have the strongest immune response
 - it is given before exposure to the virus
 - only 2 doses are needed for 9 – 14 year olds
- The vaccine is safe and effective. Millions of doses have been given in Canada and worldwide.
- Common reactions to HPV vaccine are similar to other vaccines: pain, redness or swelling in the arm where the injection is given. Sometimes teenagers have fainted when vaccinated.
- Studies show HPV vaccination does not lead to early sexual activity.