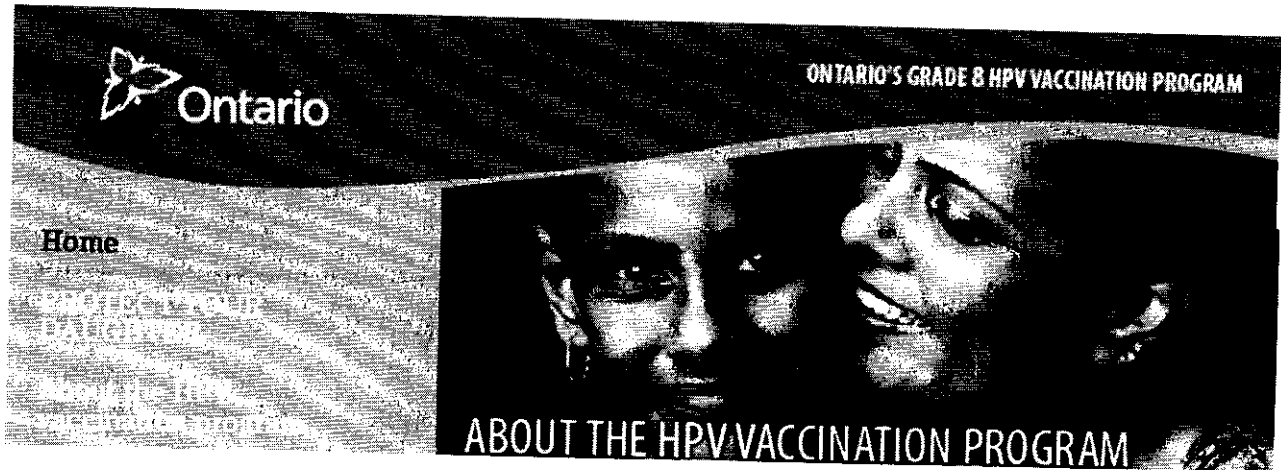


About the HPV vaccination Program



PROTECT YOUR DAUGHTER

Every year in Ontario hundreds of women are diagnosed with cervical cancer. As many as 140 women will die of the disease each year. Now, with Ontario's HPV vaccination program for Grade 8 girls, you can help protect your daughter from cervical cancer.

WHY GRADE 8 GIRLS?

Grade 8 was chosen because the HPV vaccine is most effective if given to females before they become sexually active. At the same time, girls in Grade 8 are aware of sexually transmitted infections and will be better able to understand the benefits of the vaccine. All other school vaccination programs will continue for Grade 7.

WHAT IS HPV?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus transmitted through sexual activity. HPV has been found to cause cervical cancer, some other rare cancers and genital warts. (About 70 per cent of adults will have at least one HPV infection in their lifetime.)

A MEDICAL ADVANCE.

The HPV vaccine is an important medical advancement that makes cervical cancer a preventable disease. With regular Pap screenings for all women and by allowing all Grade 8 girls the opportunity to be vaccinated against HPV, we have a real chance of preventing most cervical cancers in Ontario.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE VACCINE?

The HPV vaccine is close to 100 per cent effective in protecting against four types of high-risk HPV strains, two of which are responsible for about 70 per cent of cervical cancers. The other two are responsible for about 90 per cent of genital warts. The vaccine is most effective if given before exposure to the virus.

IS THE VACCINE SAFE FOR MY CHILD?

About the HPV vaccine

What if my daughter misses one of the vaccinations?

Will my daughter have a reaction to the vaccine?

Learn more

HEALTHY PARENTS

This vaccine has been approved by Health Canada, the authority responsible for establishing the safety, efficacy and quality of all drugs and vaccines. Before introducing a new vaccine to Ontario's publicly funded immunization program, the province considers the needs of Ontarians, the advice of several immunization expert groups and the safety, efficacy, cost and appropriateness of the specific vaccine for possible administration through Ontario's publicly funded programs.

WILL MY CHILD HAVE A REACTION TO THE VACCINE?

The HPV vaccine has similar side effects to most other available vaccines. These side effects include: redness, tenderness and swelling of the injection site and, less commonly, fever, nausea, dizziness and headache.

DOES THIS VACCINE REPLACE CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING?

Although the vaccine provides protection against the most common types of HPV infection, it is not a replacement for the Pap test. Regular cervical cancer screening, along with the vaccine, provide the best protection against cervical cancer.

THE HPV VACCINE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR DAUGHTER.

Cervical cancer is a serious disease that affects far too many women in Ontario. The HPV vaccination will help protect your daughter from this terrible disease. This protection is truly something special you can do for your daughter's future health. FOR MORE INFORMATION. Call the Government of Ontario's INFOLine at 1-866-559-4598 (TTY 1-800-387-5559) or call the Public Health Unit that serves your daughter's school.