



## Vaccination against HPV for children at the age of 10 years

National Immunisation Programme

### ***One vaccine protects against several different kinds of cancer***

*HPV can cause different types of cancer, in both women and men. Vaccination against HPV offers effective protection against these types of cancer. Your child will be offered the vaccination against HPV around the age of 10 years. You can find more information about HPV and about the vaccination in this leaflet.*

### **What is HPV?**

HPV is short for human papillomavirus. It is a very contagious virus. If you have HPV, you can pass it on to someone else without noticing it. As a result, the virus is very common. Eight in ten people are infected at least once in their lives.

Your body usually cleans up the virus on its own. But sometimes it does not vanish completely. If that happens, the virus stays in the body for longer, and can damage healthy cells. You could develop cancer ten to fifteen years later.

### **Different types of cancer**

About 1,200 women and 400 men in the Netherlands develop cancer as a result of HPV every year. Cervical cancer is the best-known form caused by HPV. But HPV can also lead to cancer in other parts of your body: in the mouth and throat, vagina, labia, penis and anus.

### **How does HPV spread?**

A person can get HPV during sexual contact. The virus can be transmitted via the hands, mouth, skin and mucous membranes.

### **Protection at an early age**

There is a vaccine that offers effective protection against HPV. The vaccine works best before you have been exposed to the virus. That is why children are already invited for the HPV vaccination around their 10th birthday. It is very likely that they have never been exposed to HPV at that age.

The vaccination series consists of 2 injections in the upper arm. The first and second injections are six months apart. After that, your child is protected for at least 15 years. That means your child also cannot pass the virus on to others.

### **95 % protection**

In response to the HPV vaccination, your body creates antibodies that will attack the virus if you get infected later. After that, your body can clean up the virus on its own. Your cells will stay healthy, thus preventing cancer. The vaccination offers around 95% protection against long-term HPV infection from the two types of the virus that are most likely to lead to cancer.

Would you like to know exactly what is in the HPV vaccine? Go to <https://rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en/how-does-vaccination-work/vaccine-information-leaflets>.

### **Side effects**

Millions of children in the Netherlands and in other countries have already had the HPV vaccination. The vaccination has been researched extensively by now. These research studies have not identified any permanent or long-lasting side effects. The injection site may feel a bit sore. Your child could also have sore muscles. Sometimes, there may be stomach pain, nausea, headache or fever. This goes away within one to three days.

### **Girls and boys**

HPV can infect both girls and boys. Girls could later develop cervical cancer, or cancer of the mouth, throat, vagina, labia or anus. Boys could develop cancer of the mouth and throat, penis or anus when they are older. That is why all children are invited to get the vaccination. The vaccination means that they have a much lower risk of cancer due to HPV later in life.

### **Questions?**

- For more information, go to <https://rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en/infectious-diseases/hpv>.
- If you have questions, you can always contact the doctor or nurse at the local Centre for Youth and Families, or the Municipal Public Health Services (GGD) in your region.
- Are you hesitant about vaccination? Call 088 – 7 555 777 to contact the national helpline. English-speaking operators are available on Monday through Friday mornings.

### **Information about the vaccination**

When your child gets the vaccination, youth healthcare services (JGZ) will record the vaccination data in the JGZ system and on the vaccination certificate.

### *Consent*

If you consent, JGZ will share the data with the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). The data to be shared is details about the vaccination and personal data. The JGZ doctor or nurse will ask you if you consent to the JGZ sharing your data with RIVM. It is important that you consent to this. To be able to do its work properly, RIVM needs to know exactly which vaccinations your child received.

### *What will RIVM do with the data?*

RIVM needs this data for various reasons, such as to send you a reminder, so that your child receives all the vaccinations in the National Immunisation Programme. You can also view and print your child's vaccination data through the portal at [mijn.rivm.nl](https://mijn.rivm.nl). This could be useful if you plan to travel abroad. And RIVM wants to know how many people in the Netherlands are vaccinated. This makes it possible for RIVM to monitor trends in infectious diseases in the Netherlands.

For more information, visit <https://rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en/about/your-consent>.

This brochure is available in several languages:  
[rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/brochures-other-languages](https://rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/brochures-other-languages)

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