

HPV vaccination for boys and girls aged 10 years

Protect your child from various types of cancer with the HPV vaccination

HPV is a virus that 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 receive the HPV vaccination around the age of 10. You can read more about HPV and the vaccination in this leaflet.

What is HPV?

HPV is short for human papillomavirus. It is a very infectious virus. Eight out of ten people will be infected at least once during their lifetime. If you have HPV, you can pass it on to someone else without noticing it. Your body usually cleans up the virus on its own. Sometimes that does not happen and the virus stays in the body for longer. It can damage healthy cells and you can get cancer 10 to 15 years later.

Girls and boys

Both girls and boys can get HPV. The vaccination makes it much less likely for them to develop cancer from HPV later on. With the HPV vaccination, they are protected against HPV in time.

Different types of cancer

Each year, an estimated 1,200 women and 400 men in the Netherlands get cancer from HPV. Boys could develop cancer of the mouth and throat, penis or anus later in life. Girls could develop cervical cancer, or cancer of the mouth, throat, vagina, labia or anus later on.

How do you get HPV?

You can get HPV from intimate contact. Sex is one way to be infected. You can also be infected by touching each other's intimate parts with your hands or mouth.

HPV vaccination: Two injections

The vaccination consists of 2 injections. The time between the first and the second injection is at least 6 months. Your child has the injection in the upper arm.

Protection now against cancer later

The HPV vaccination works best if you have it before you can get infected with the virus. That is why children are invited for the HPV vaccination around their 10th birthday. That may seem early, but it means your child is protected in time.

HPV vaccine protection

The HPV vaccination makes the body produce antibodies. They attack the virus and clean it up if you get infected. Your cells will stay healthy, thus preventing cancer. The vaccination offers more than 90% protection for years against various types of HPV that can cause cancer.

Genital warts

The vaccination also protects against genital warts (in the throat, around the penis, vagina or anus). The warts do not cause cancer, but they can be very annoying.

Side effects

Immediately after vaccination, the injection site may be a bit sensitive. Your child may also experience muscle pain, or sometimes have abdominal pain, nausea, headache or fever. This goes away within one to three days.

Millions of children in the Netherlands and other countries have had an HPV vaccination. The vaccination has been thoroughly researched. No permanent or severe side effects have been found. In the Netherlands, the HPV vaccination has been given for more than 15 years.

Studies have shown that the HPV vaccination does not cause fatigue or infertility. It is actually the other way round, because infection with HPV can have adverse effects on fertility. Vaccination against HPV gives protection from this.

Data on vaccination

When your child receives the vaccination, the JGZ (Youth Healthcare Services) stores the data on the vaccination in the JGZ system and on the vaccination certificate.

The JGZ physician or nurse asks for your permission to share data with RIVM. For more information about data sharing, visit rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en/about/your-consent

MijnRIVM.nl lets you view your child's vaccination details. This can only be done if you give permission to share data with RIVM.

Questions?

If you have any questions, you can always contact the physician or nurse of the JGZ/GGD in your region.

Are you concerned about the vaccination?

Call to contact the national helpline. English-speaking operators are available on Monday through Friday mornings. 088 555 777