

# HPV Vaccination for All Pupils in Year 8

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child is now due for their HPV (Human papillomavirus) vaccination. We will soon be coming into your child's school to give this.



## SANDWELL IMMUNISATION TEAM

sandwell@v-uk.co.uk  
01215 921110

working on   
behalf of 

To give consent for your child to have these vaccines, please click here:

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/hpv/2023/sandwell>

Even if you do not wish for your child to have the vaccines, please complete the online form so that we can record your wishes.

### HPV VACCINE

- Is a single dose vaccine that is offered to pupils in Year 8 to prevent HPV infection
- Protects against two high risk HPV types that cause cancers, including cancer of the cervix, head and neck, penile and rectal cancers
- Has been used in the UK since 2008. There is evidence from Scotland, England, Australia and Denmark that it has had a major impact on HPV infections
- Has been given to over 80 million people worldwide, but it is important to keep vaccination rates high to stop HPV rates increasing again

You only need to complete one consent form for each child. If you later change your mind, please call your local team. If your child has this immunisation elsewhere after you have submitted the consent form, you MUST inform Vaccination UK rather than the school.

We understand that you may have questions about the vaccine. For more information, please go to our website, where you can find a list of FAQs, as well as details of our community catch up clinics. There are also some FAQs attached.

You can also find informational videos on our YouTube channel, including subtitled versions for other languages.

Yours faithfully,

Your Local Immunisation Team  
Vaccination UK

### USEFUL INFORMATION

We endeavour to come to your child's school twice. If they are absent or unable to be vaccinated at school, you will need to attend one of our community clinics for the vaccine. Details of these can be found on our website, or you can contact the team above.

#### Has your child had two doses of MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella)?

All children should receive two doses of MMR, at age one and then again at three years and four months. If your child has not had two doses, they may not be fully protected. We can offer an MMR booster at the same time as the HPV. If you answer 'No' to the question 'Has your child had two doses of MMR vaccine', one of our Nurses will be in touch to offer this.

### USEFUL LINKS

[www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk](https://www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk)

### PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2023/24 policy can be viewed here:  
[www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy](https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy)

For data protection queries, please contact: [dpo@vaccinationuk.co.uk](mailto:dpo@vaccinationuk.co.uk)

# Frequently Asked Questions



## Q WHAT IS HPV (HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS)?

The human papillomavirus is very common and it is caught through intimate sexual contact with another person who already has it. Because it is a very common infection, most people will get it during their lifetime. There are many different types of HPV. Most HPV infections do not cause any symptoms and get better on their own. However, some do not clear up and can lead to cancer whilst others cause genital warts.

## Q WHICH CANCERS ARE CAUSED BY HPV?

The human papillomavirus increases the risk of developing some cancers in later life including cervical cancer (cancer of the entrance to the womb), some mouth and throat cancers and some cancers of the anus and genital area. HPV causes more than 99% of all cervical cancer, the most common cancer among women under the age of 35. Most vaginal, vulval, penile and anal cancers are also caused by HPV.

## Q WHAT IS THE HPV VACCINE AND WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED IT NOW?

The HPV vaccine protects against two high risk HPV types that cause cancer, including most cases of cervical cancer. Having this vaccine will also protect your child against the types of HPV that cause the majority of cases of genital warts. The vaccine works best when given at age 12-13, when the immune system is strong and before your son or daughter becomes sexually active. Both boys and girls need to get this vaccine because HPV infection is so common and easily transmitted.

## Q HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

Over 80 million people have received the vaccine worldwide. In time it is expected that the vaccine will save hundreds of lives every year in the UK. A Scottish study has already shown a 71% reduction in pre-cancerous cervical disease in young women. In the years since the start of the vaccination programme in the UK there has been a big decline in HPV infections and in the number of young people with genital warts. However, it is important that we keep vaccination rates very high so that the number of these infections does not begin to rise again.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:



- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

## Q ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Like most injections, the side effects of the HPV vaccination are quite mild. Stinging and soreness in the arm are common but wear off in a couple of days. More serious side effects are extremely rare. The vaccine meets the rigorous safety standards required for it to be used in the UK and has an excellent safety profile. Millions of doses of vaccine have already been given to pupils in the UK and around the world. As with all vaccines, any reports of side effects are closely monitored and reviewed. See [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations) if you'd like more information on side effects.

## Q HOW SAFE IS THE VACCINE?

The HPV vaccination is very safe. This has been established through rigorous testing and many millions of doses delivered across the world. Researchers in the UK, the US, Scandinavia, Australia and several other countries have checked millions of medical records to see if people who get the HPV vaccine are more likely to suffer from rare health problems. They found that just as many unvaccinated people suffer from rare health problems as vaccinated people do. That means the vaccine can't be the cause of their health problems — even if they started very soon after vaccination.