

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Is this vaccine safe?

HPV immunisation has an excellent safety profile. Safety data has been collected on over 180 million doses of Gardasil given in more than 125 countries over the last 13 years.

### What are the side effects?

As with all immunisations, your child may have a sore arm and some redness, pain or swelling at the injection site.

Other reactions that can occur, usually within one or two days include: a fever (feeling hot), nausea (feeling sick), dizziness, fainting, and headache.

The only known severe side effect is serious allergic reaction (called anaphylaxis).

It happens rarely (approximately 3 people out of every million vaccines given) and usually within minutes of the vaccine being given.

### How long does Gardasil last?

It is expected that Gardasil 9 will provide long lasting protection.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Speak to the school public health nurse, your doctor or practice nurse.
- Call 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863).
- [www.health.govt.nz/hpv](http://www.health.govt.nz/hpv)
- <https://auckland-northland.cancernz.org.nz/>



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*A Healthier Northland*  
*He Hauora Mo Te Tai Tokerau*



# Protecting against HPV



Information to assist you in making an informed decision when consenting for your son and daughter to be vaccinated against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

**HPV Vaccine is the best way to PREVENT some types of CANCER**



## Dear Parents and Caregivers of Year 7 Children,

**Great News!** Starting in 2017 both boys and girls will be offered the HPV vaccine free in school. Your child will bring the HPV consent form home for you to read and return to school in Term 1.

### WHAT IS HPV?

HPV stands for human papillomavirus. HPV is a very common virus - four out of five people become infected at some time in their lives. HPV is easy to catch as it is transmitted through intimate skin to skin contact.

While most HPV infections clear without treatment, some don't and cause abnormal cells to grow. If these cells go undetected and untreated they can lead to cancer. There are many types of HPV:

- Some HPV types cause **CANCERS** of the throat, mouth, genital and anal areas, in both men and women.
- Some HPV types cause genital warts, in both men and women.



## THE VACCINE

Gardasil 9 vaccine will be available free from 2017 to all Year 8 students in schools.

Gardasil 9 vaccine protects your child from 9 different types of HPV virus.

- The vaccine works by causing the body's immune system to produce its own protection (antibodies) against the HPV virus.
- HPV vaccine Gardasil 9 will protect your child from infections that cause around 90 percent of all HPV related cancers.
- The vaccine works best if it is given well before your child starts any sexual relationship. This is because in children aged 11-13 years the body takes up the vaccine very effectively and a strong protective immune response develops.

The Gardasil 9 vaccine is given as two doses for those aged 14 and younger.

The second injection is given about six months after the first injection.

**Prevention is the best protection.**



### KEY POINTS

- Gardasil 9 is the best way to **PREVENT** some types of **CANCER**.
- It is safe and highly effective. The number of genital warts cases and cervical abnormalities in New Zealand has declined for young women since the introduction of HPV vaccine in 2008.
- Your child will only need **TWO** doses and it is free.

