

The **HPV vaccine** is provided free in Victorian secondary schools for children aged about 12-13.

People aged 12-25 can also get a free catch-up of the HPV vaccine through their local council, at a doctor, Aboriginal Health Service or at some pharmacies.

HPV is a sexually transmitted infection that can affect **everyone** and is **very common**.

Here's what you can do:

- Talk to your young ones about the importance of the HPV vaccine and make sure they attend school or your local Aboriginal Health Service to receive the vaccine.
- If they miss out on the vaccine, they can have a catch-up dose at an Aboriginal Health Service, at a doctor, council immunisation session or some pharmacies.
- If you do not receive information about the HPV vaccine or a consent form, contact the school or your Aboriginal Health Service.
- Visit www.hpvvaccine.org.au or call Cancer Council on 13 11 20 for more information.

Cancer information and support

- 📞 13 11 20
- ✉️ askanurse@cancervic.org.au
- 🖱️ www.cancervic.org.au

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Help keep our Mob HPV free



Information about
HPV vaccination for
our Community

Cancer Council 13 11 20
www.hpvvaccine.org.au



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**You can help
by talking to your
children about the
importance
of the vaccine**



A free vaccination program is offered in Victorian secondary schools to help protect young ones from a range of cancers and diseases caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV).

Why the vaccination is important

HPV can affect everyone and is very common. In fact four out of five sexually active people will have a HPV infection at some point in their lives.

- **HPV is transmitted through sexual activity (with anyone of any gender) by genital skin-to-skin contact.** It usually has no symptoms and goes away by itself, but it can sometimes lead to serious illness.
- **HPV causes almost all cases of genital warts and cervical cancer,** as well as throat, anal, penile, vaginal and vulval cancers.
- **The HPV vaccination helps protect against most HPV infections** that can lead to cancer and disease.
- **The HPV vaccine is highly effective and long-lasting.** The vaccine provides almost 100 per cent protection from nine HPV types that cause most HPV-related cancers and diseases (if given when someone is young and before they are sexually active).

When do people get the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is recommended for all people living in Australia aged nine to 25, and is free for anyone aged 12 to 25 years of age.

Most people will only need one dose of the HPV vaccine, but some people with weakened immune systems (immunocompromised people) may need three doses.

Where do people get the vaccine?

The vaccine is given at school when young ones are aged about 12-13. This is because the vaccine works better when given at this age.

If your young one misses out on the HPV vaccine at school, they can get a catch-up dose at the local council, doctor, Aboriginal Health Service or at some pharmacies. Contact them for an appointment.

How can we find out if our young ones are immunised?

The Australian Immunisation Register keeps a record of all vaccinations. Contact the register, or speak to your local Aboriginal Health Worker or doctor to check.

You can contact the register on **1800 653 809** or through its website: www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/australian-immunisation-register.

Get your young ones ready for their HPV vaccine

If your young one is due for a HPV vaccine, you should get information about the National Immunisation Program, including a consent form, from their school.

The consent form needs to be signed and returned to the school before the vaccination can be given.

Our HPV website has information to help young ones learn about HPV and the HPV vaccine.

You can access it at www.hpvvaccine.org.au.

HPV causes almost all cases of genital warts and cervical cancer.

