

New HPV vaccination information brochure – French to English traduction

HPV VACCINATION

For the prevention of cancer and illnesses related to human papillomaviruses (HPV)

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Why get vaccinated against HPV?

Vaccination against HPV is recommended for adolescents, both male and female, by the Swiss Public health authorities and helps fight against 7 types of HPV related to cancers including:

- cervical cancer in women
- anal cancer in both men and women
- throat and mouth cancer in both men and women
- penile cancer in men

Vaccination also protects against 2 types of HPV responsible for developing genital warts in both men and women.

What is HPV?

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a virus that can cause cancer and other illnesses in both men and women.

It is mainly transmitted by skin to skin contact during sexual encounters.

There exists multiple types of HPV viruses. It is estimated that in Switzerland vaccination protects against 90% of the types of HPV responsible for cancers.

What are the risks associated with HPV infection?

Eight out of ten non vaccinated adults will be infected by HPV at some point in their life.

The great majority of people infected will experience no symptoms linked to the infection and get rid of the virus thanks to their immune system.

In some people, however, there is a risk of developing a chronic infection and, years later, cancer. There is no treatment to eliminate the infection

How effective is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine (combined with regular gynaecological screening for women) is the best way to protect ourselves against HPV related cancers and illnesses.

The vaccine works best when given before age 15, when the immune system is at its peak.

Studies have shown that the vaccine is very effective in reducing the occurrence of cancer-prone lesions and genital warts.

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How much does the vaccine cost?

Since 2019, Gardasil 9 is provided for free in the context of the cantonal vaccination program, replacing the previous vaccine Gardasil, which has been in use since 2008.

Gardasil 9 protects against 9 types of HPV (versus 4 types previously)

Gardasil®9 covers 90% of HPV causing cervical cancers in Switzerland (compared to 62% previously).

Where and how to get vaccinated?

The Canton of Vaud offers all 9th grade students the opportunity to receive the HPV vaccine at school free of charge.

The vaccine is administered by health personnel mandated by the cantonal authorities, after authorization signed by the parents.

Students who wish to receive the HPV vaccination can do so at their doctor's office, also free of charge.

Between the ages of 11 and 14, two doses of vaccine separated by six months are sufficient.

If the vaccination is given after the 15th birthday, three doses of vaccine will be required.

How safe is the vaccine?

The vaccine is considered extremely safe by the Swiss and international regulatory authorities (Federal Office of Public Health, Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety, World Health Organization).

The following temporary symptoms may be observed:

- redness, pain and swelling at the injection site
- slight increase in temperature
- feelings of weakness and dizziness

As with other vaccines, there is a very small risk of an allergic reaction immediately after vaccination. Health care personnel are prepared to manage this type of reaction.

Where can I get more information?

Contact your school nurse, school doctor or primary care physician.

Visit the websites:

www.ciao.ch/articles/vaccin-contre-le-hpv

www.infovac.ch/fr/les-vaccins-1/par-maladie/hpv

www.vd.ch/themes/formation/sante-a-lecole/prestations/vaccination

www.who.int/vaccine_safety/committee/topics/hpv/fr