

Hey, B.C.



Let's talk HPV.

What is HPV and why is it a concern?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common sexually transmitted infection.

Nearly all sexually active adults will contract HPV at some point in their lives, usually with no symptoms. This means HPV can be passed to others without either partner knowing. An HPV infection is a major concern because it can cause serious health problems later in life, including six types of cancers and genital warts.



How can I protect myself?

The best way to protect yourself is to get vaccinated.

The HPV vaccine can prevent nearly 100% of HPV infections that cause cancer and genital warts.

How do I know if I have been vaccinated?

In BC, the vaccine is offered through a school-based program in Grade 6.

If you are unsure whether you received this vaccine in school, visit [Health Gateway](#) to learn more about your vaccination status.

Who is at risk?

Anyone who is sexually active can get HPV, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, or number of partners.

Young adults are considered high risk for HPV, with most infections happening shortly after becoming sexually active. Even if you have one partner, there's still a chance of HPV exposure and infection.

Is there a cure?

There is no cure for HPV. Most infections will clear on their own and you won't even realize you have it.

But, when your body can't clear an HPV infection on its own, the risk for genital warts and certain types of cancer increases.

The HPV vaccine is free for anyone aged 9 to 26.

Contact your local public health unit or pharmacy to learn more about getting vaccinated.



Learn more
praxushealth.ca

References:

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