

# HPV Infection

## Information Sheet



### What is Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted infection that can develop in both males and females. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection.

There are more than 40 types of HPV that affect 75% to 85% of people in their lifetime. Most people who become infected with HPV do not even know they have it.

Men and women with an HPV infection have an increased risk of developing certain cancers. For example, HPV is almost always the cause of cervical cancer.

### How do people get HPV?

- Sexual intercourse and anal sex
- Oral sex and genital-to-genital contact
- Rarely pregnant women with genital HPV can pass it on to their baby during delivery

### What are HPV-related diseases?

- Genital, throat and anal warts
- Cervical cancer (lower end of the uterus)
- Vulvar cancer (womens' external genitals)
- Vaginal cancer
- Penile cancer (penis)
- Anal cancer
- Head and neck cancer

### How can I prevent HPV?

You can lower your chance of being infected by HPV by making healthy choices.

- Limit your number of sexual partners
- Use condoms (Note: Condoms are unlikely to provide complete protection against HPV because areas not covered by condoms can be infected by the virus)
- Get the HPV vaccine for yourself and/or your child: males and females ages 9-26

Talk with your health care provider about HPV risk factors, related diseases and to see if the HPV vaccine is right for you or your child.

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## Where can I get more information?

The National Cancer Institute provides accurate and up-to-date information about HPV infection, cancer types, prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and end of life care.

**Phone:** 1-800-4CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

**Website:** [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides information and resources on cancer types, cancer prevention, screening and information on the HPV infection and the HPV vaccine.

**Phone:** 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

**Website:** [www.cdc.gov/hpv](http://www.cdc.gov/hpv)

Gardasil® provides information about HPV infections and vaccinations for both males and females. Gardasil® is a subsidiary of Merck & Co.

**Website:** [www.gardasil.com/index.html](http://www.gardasil.com/index.html)

Cervarix® provides information about HPV infections and vaccinations females. Cervarix is manufactured by GlaxoSmithKlin.

**Website:** [www.cervarix.ca](http://www.cervarix.ca)



**Carbone Cancer Center**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



**Cancer Health  
Disparities Initiative**

[ruralcancernetwork.org](http://ruralcancernetwork.org)

**For more local information, please contact:**

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