



THINGS TO KNOW

1. HPV is responsible for certain cancers in women and men.
2. Thanks to vaccination, most cancers caused by HPV are preventable.
3. Vaccinations are offered free of charge by doctors up to the 21st birthday and beyond, depending on risk factors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TALK TO YOUR
DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST.

Ministry of Health and Social Security
Health Directorate

13a, rue de Bitbourg | L-1273 Luxembourg | Tel. (+352) 247 85564
medecine-preventive@ms.etat.lu

Further information on:
www.sante.lu

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Infection with the HPV virus can cause serious and
discomforting illnesses in both men and women.

GETTING VACCINATED MEANS
INCREASING YOUR CHANCES OF
BEING PROTECTED



THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of Health and Social Security

Health Directorate

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)

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VACCINATION PROTECTS AGAINST
CANCER AND CONDYLOMA CAUSED BY HPV.



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WHAT IS THE HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)?

Human papillomaviruses (HPV) belong to a family of viruses with over 200 variants, at least 12 of which can cause cancer.

The most common infections transmitted by skin-to-skin contact, particularly in intimate areas, are those caused by HPV. Most men and women will encounter this virus during their lifetime.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF AN HPV INFECTION?



The majority of infections have no symptoms and heal spontaneously, but 10-20% of infected people develop a persistent infection that promotes the development of cancer caused by HPV. Certain types can cause warts on the genitals, feet, hands and, more rarely, in the throat or mouth.

WHAT DISEASES IS HPV RESPONSIBLE FOR?



91% of cervical cancers

78% of vaginal cancers

15-48% of vulvar cancers (according to age)



85% of cancers of the ENT (mouth and throat) area

87% of anal cancers

90% of condylomas: benign anogenital warts that do not develop into cancer

Respiratory papillomatosis (a rare disease)



53% of cancers of the penis

CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST HPV INFECTIONS?

The answer is yes!

By vaccination

Cancers are linked to the persistence of certain types of HPV in tissue cells. The vaccine is guaranteed to be as effective as possible if preventive vaccination of young women and men is carried out before the first intimate contacts.

Using a condom and sex education

Condoms are the best way to protect against all sexually transmitted diseases. However, since HPV can also be transmitted through intimate skin-to-skin contact and oral-genital contact, condoms do not provide effective protection in these situations.

Through early screening

91% of HPV-related cancers in women in 2018 were cervical cancers. It is the fourth leading cause of cancer and cancer deaths in women worldwide, accounting for 8% of all female cancer deaths. In Luxembourg, 20 cases of cervical cancer have been reported each year for more than 10 years. On average, more than 5 women die from cervical cancer each year.

Cervical cancer generally develops very slowly (15 to 20 years), and precancerous lesions can be detected years before, thanks to cervical «smears». Screening by smear test is recommended every 3 years for women aged between 25 and 69. A simple, effective and painless method. Minimally invasive treatment of these precancerous lesions can then ensure a complete cure.



WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HPV VACCINATION?

The CSMI (Conseil Supérieur des Maladies Infectieuses) recommends [universal vaccination against HPV](#) using a nonavalent vaccine (9vHPV). This type of vaccine protects against genotypes 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58, and prevents most cancers caused by HPV. The vaccine is administered intramuscularly and confers long-lasting immunity.

HOW TO GET VACCINATED?

The vaccine is made available to the medical profession by the Health Directorate as part of the vaccination programme. Vaccinations are offered free of charge by doctors up to the age of 21 and beyond, depending on risk factors.

- Make an appointment with your GP, paediatrician or gynaecologist.
- Vaccines administered can be added in the «Electronic Vaccination Record» by your doctor. You can consult at any time.

WHO SHOULD BE VACCINATED?

Gender	Age	Doses	Interval	Indication
♀♂	9 to 14 years old inclusive		6 months between doses	Systematic vaccination
♀♂	15 to 20 years old inclusive		6 months between doses	Young people not yet vaccinated
♀♂	Over 21 years old		0, 2 and 6 months between doses	Severely immunocompromised people*

* Primary immunodeficiency of humoral and/or cellular immunity, uncontrolled HIV infection, malignant neoplasms, transplantation, autoimmune disease under immunosuppressive treatment, which may attenuate the immune response to vaccination.