

Are there any side-effects?

Your daughter may experience pain, redness or swelling at the site of the injection, or headaches after the injection.

If your daughter experiences any side-effects, talk to your GP, pharmacist or nurse. You can report side-effects to www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or to Sanofi Pasteur MSD on 01628 785291. By doing so, you can help provide more information on the safety of this vaccine.

Is my daughter really at risk of HPV?

HPV is very common and highly contagious. 8 out of 10 sexually active women will be exposed to it at some point in their lifetime and the highest risk of infection is during adolescence and early adulthood. Girls can therefore benefit most from HPV vaccination if it is given before they are sexually active and potentially being exposed to the HPV virus.

The types of HPV that cause cervical cancer are mostly spread through sexual contact and unfortunately there are often no symptoms, so infected people don't realise they've got HPV and their partner wouldn't be able to tell.

The HPV vaccination can't prevent all cervical cancers so it is very important that your daughter has regular cervical smears when she's older.

What should I do now?

- Information will be given to you regarding your consent for your daughter to receive the HPV vaccinations. You should discuss this with your daughter and sign and return the parental consent form once you have agreed. If you cannot come to an agreement, contact your school nurse, practice nurse or GP to help you discuss it further. If the nurse or GP is assured that your daughter is capable of doing so then it is possible for her to self-consent; however, they will always aim to work in partnership with you

- Remember your daughter needs all her doses for the best possible protection, so write down the dates that she is given for all her injections

- If your daughter can't make any of these dates for any reason, it's very important she lets the nurse or GP know
- If your daughter has not been offered or hasn't completed all her doses of HPV vaccination, consult your school nurse, practice nurse or GP

If you have any further questions about HPV vaccination, visit www.hpwwise.co.uk or speak to your school nurse, practice nurse or GP.

Helping protect your daughter from cervical cancer

Information for parents and guardians

HPV
wise

Why does my daughter need HPV vaccinations?

In the UK, it is estimated that cervical cancer kills around 18 women every week. It's caused by certain types of a virus called HPV (which stands for human papillomavirus). Only certain types of HPV can cause cancer and in most cases the virus goes away naturally.

Vaccinating your daughter against HPV can help protect her against the two types of HPV that cause around 75% of cervical cancer in Europe, as well as helping protect her against anal cancer and genital warts.

The national HPV programme began in the UK in September 2008. As part of the programme, girls in school year 8 (aged 12-13 years) are offered free HPV vaccination at school. Free HPV vaccination is also offered as part of a catch-up programme in schools or GP surgeries to all girls up to the age of 18 who have not been previously vaccinated against HPV.

For more information about how HPV vaccination can help protect your daughter visit www.hpwwise.co.uk



Has this vaccine been tested?

This vaccine has been rigorously tested in clinical trials, and over 152 million doses of it have been distributed throughout the world. As with all medicines it continues to be monitored.

How many injections will my daughter need?

- If your daughter is starting her HPV vaccinations in year 8, **2 doses** of the vaccine will be given at least 6 months apart
- For older girls, **3 doses** may be needed

This is a recent change in the national HPV programme. Previously, 3 doses of HPV vaccine were given to girls starting their vaccinations in year 8. However, a recent study has shown that 2 doses in young girls provide the same response as 3 doses in older girls.

Your daughter will be told how many doses she needs.

Why does my daughter need more than one injection?

It's important that your daughter has all her separate injections, on different dates, to be sure that the vaccine produces enough antibodies to give her the best possible protection against HPV. If she doesn't have all her doses she may not be as well protected against cervical cancer as she could be.