

What should I do if I miss an injection?

If you miss any of your vaccinations, for whatever reason, you should speak to your school nurse, practice nurse or GP about making another appointment as soon as possible to ensure that you get all the doses you need.

Will it hurt?

Like any injection it may hurt so try to stay relaxed, breathe steadily and don't look at the needle. Sometimes people can experience pain, redness and swelling at the site of the injection, or headaches after the injection.

If you experience any side-effects or feel unwell, please tell your GP, pharmacist, nurse or parents/guardians who should report this to Sanofi Pasteur MSD on 01628 785291. You can also report side-effects to www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard. By doing so, you can help provide more information on the safety of this vaccine.

What should I do now?

- Write down the dates that you are given for all your injections

- Pass on any consent forms and information leaflets that you have been given. You should discuss these with your parents/guardians and get them to 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 are assured that you are capable of doing so then it is possible for you to self-consent; however, they will always aim to work in partnership with your parents where possible
- Let your parents/guardians know the dates on which you'll receive your vaccinations
- If you can't make any of these dates it's very important to let your nurse or GP know

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 you against cervical cancer

Information for girls aged 12–17



Why am I being offered HPV vaccination?

In the UK, cervical cancer kills an estimated 18 women every week. It's caused by certain types of a virus called HPV (which stands for human papillomavirus). Not all types of HPV cause cervical cancer and in most people the infection clears naturally; however, if HPV infection persists it may lead to cervical cancer.

Getting vaccinated against HPV can help protect you against the two most common types of HPV that cause cervical cancer, as well as helping protect you against anal cancer and genital warts.

In the UK, all girls in year 8 (aged 12-13 years) are offered free HPV vaccination at school through the national HPV programme. 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.



How do you get HPV?

HPV is very common, highly contagious and spreads by skin-to-skin contact. The HPV types that cause cervical cancer are mostly spread through sexual contact and anyone, at any age, can become infected. Unfortunately there are often no symptoms so infected people may not realise they've got HPV.

How many injections will I need?

- If you are starting your 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

You will be told how many doses you need. It is very important that you complete the full course that you are on.

Why do I need more than one injection?

It's important that you have all your separate injections, on different dates, to give you the best possible protection against HPV. If you don't have all your doses you may not be as well protected against cervical cancer as you could be.