

Vaccine in short for the **HPV vaccine (Gardasil 9)**

What is this vaccine for?

This vaccine protects your child against diseases caused by **9 types of the human papillomavirus (HPV)**. Your child can become infected with HPV during sexual activity and intimate contact. Eight out of ten people become infected with HPV at some point in their lives. A persistent HPV infection that does not clear on its own can lead to cancer. Cancer caused by HPV can sometimes be fatal.

An HPV infection can lead to several types of cancer:

- Of the cervix.
- In the mouth and throat.
- At the anus.
- At the vagina.
- Of the labia.
- Of the penis.

The HPV vaccine also protects against warts around the vagina, penis or anus (anogenital warts).

How does this vaccine work?



If your child comes into contact with HPV after vaccination, their body recognises this virus. Your child's body will already have produced antibodies that protect your child against this virus. These antibodies remain in your child's blood for a long time.

Research has been carried out on the effectiveness of the HPV vaccine in girls. This research shows that the vaccine reduces the risk of precancerous stages and several types of cancer by about 90%. This means that out of every 100 girls who would develop one or more of these types of cancer without vaccination, around 90 girls will not develop any of these cancers after vaccination. This concerns precancerous stages and cancer of the cervix, vulva or vagina caused by HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58.

These HPV types can also cause cancer around the anus in both boys and girls. The HPV vaccine also protects against this.

HPV types 6 and 11 can cause warts around the penis, vagina or anus in boys and girls. The HPV vaccine also protects against these warts.

The HPV vaccine works best against an HPV infection if you have not previously been in contact with HPV. The injection is therefore given around the age of 10 years old.

What should I do if my child has not received the vaccination?



If your child has **missed** the appointment for the vaccination, make a new appointment as soon as possible.

Most important warnings



If your child has a **fever** before receiving the vaccination, your child may become even more unwell. The RIVM advises you to make a new appointment for the vaccination if your child has a fever above 38.5°C.

When will my child receive this vaccine?

In the National Immunisation Programme, your child can receive this vaccine in the year your child turns 10. The RIVM will send an invitation to receive the vaccine.



Within the National Immunisation Programme, your child receives this vaccination **twice**. Your child receives the second vaccination 6 months after the first vaccination.



The injection is given in the upper arm.

This vaccination is part of the **National Immunisation Programme**.

This is a government programme designed to protect people against infectious diseases. Vaccinations that are part of the National Immunisation Programme are free of charge.

Most important side effects

As with other vaccines, your child may experience side effects. This is because the vaccine activates your child's immune system. The immune system protects against HPV.

Approximately 1 in 10 children may experience:

- Pain, redness or swelling at the injection site.
- Headache.

Approximately 1 in 100 children may experience:

- A bruise or itching at the injection site.
- Fever or fatigue.
- Dizziness.
- Nausea.

More information



If you have any further questions or concerns about vaccinating your child, discuss them with the child health doctor, your doctor or a pharmacist.

For the official package leaflet, see ema.europa.eu. For more information, you can also visit apotheek.nl, thuisarts.nl or rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en. If you would like to report a side effect, or learn more about side effects, you can do so via lareb.nl/en.