

Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Update

Nine-valent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV9) (Gardasil®9) is publicly funded for:

- all Grade 7 & 8 students, via Toronto Public Health school vaccination program
- all students (regardless of gender) finishing Grade 8 or 9
- students, born female, in Grades 10 to 12
- guys who are into other guys (MSM), attending high school
- individuals, up to 26 years of age, who self-identify as MSM (including gay, bisexual or transgender)
- **Order free HPV vaccine for eligible clients at toronto.ca/ordervaccines.**
- Students born male, in Grades 10 to 12 are **not eligible** unless they are MSM. The HPV vaccine can be purchased.

Q1. How many doses of HPV9 vaccine are required?

If the first dose of the vaccine is provided between 9 to 14 years of age, then only 2 doses are required, 6 months or more apart. If the first dose is given at ages 15 years and older, then 3-doses; with minimum spacing of 0, 2 and 6 months are given.

Q2. If a patient already received the full series of HPV4, do they need to be re-vaccinated with HPV9?

If the patient wants to receive the added protection from five additional strains, then revaccination with HPV9, with a full series, is recommended by the Canadian Pediatric Society.

Q3. Are there resources for clients who are not eligible for publicly funded HPV9 vaccine and can't afford private purchase? We are not aware of additional funding sources for clients who do not meet HPV9 high risk or routine vaccine eligibility. Health clinics at post-secondary educational institutions may offer a discounted rates for their students.

Q4. Do you vaccinate someone with HPV and an abnormal pap smear?

Yes, if they are eligible and at ongoing risk. Even though an individual may have evidence of previous HPV infection, the likelihood that they have been infected with all 9 strains is not high.

Q5. What is the oldest age to be vaccinated with HPV 9?

While [HPV9 vaccine is licensed](#) for females ages 9 to 45 and males ages 9 to 26, it is recommended by NACI from age 9 and up. NACI does not provide an upper age limit but states, "vaccine may be administered to men and women 27 years of age and older at **ongoing risk of exposure**." Ongoing risk of exposure can include new or multiple sexual partners.

Q6. A patient came in with HPV vaccine which had been out of the fridge for 3 days. They paid \$200 for the vaccine. Should we give it? Is it still effective?

Call Toronto Public Health Nursing Queue at: 416-338-2030. The nurse will need the lot number to call the manufacturer to determine the stability and viability of the exposed vaccine.