

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination website article

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a virus that lives on the skin in and around the whole genital area. It's a very common infection and can be passed on by any skin-to-skin contact of the genital area, more than 70% of unvaccinated people will get it. There are many different types of HPV and most HPV infections do not cause any symptoms and will get better on their own however, some infections can lead to cancer, whilst others can cause genital warts.

The HPV vaccination offers the best protection for teenagers as they start their journey into adulthood and is highly effective at protecting against HPV related cancers including cervical cancer, some mouth and throat cancers and some cancers of the anus and genital areas. It also helps protect against genital warts. Since the HPV vaccine was introduced in 2008 there has been a big decline in HPV infections. Cervical cancer rates have reduced by nearly 90% in women in their 20s who were vaccinated at 12 to 13 years and diagnoses of genital warts have fallen sharply in both males and females. In time it is expected that the vaccine will save hundreds of lives every year in the UK.

This spring term, Vaccination UK will be attending schools to administer the HPV vaccination for children in school year 8. You can consent online now by clicking this link:

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/hpv/2024/wolverhampton>. Alternatively, if you are giving consent using a paper consent form, please make sure to return this to the school office/class teacher. Consent forms need to be completed or returned no later than 5 working days before the clinic on [add date]. If you have any queries or would like to provide verbal consent, please contact Vaccination UK's School Vaccination Team on 01902 200077 or e-mail wolverhampton@v-uk.co.uk.

Further information on the HPV vaccination can be found at

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/hpv-vaccine/> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hpv-vaccine-vaccination-guide-leaflet>.

Additional resources about immunisations can be enjoyed at

<https://bugbusterkids.co.uk/index.html>.