

For pupils and parents/guardians

Time for vaccination against HPV (human papillomavirus)

The vaccine against human papilloma virus is offered to all girls and boys in Norway in 7th grade at school. The aim is to prevent cancer caused by the virus. HPV spreads easily through sexual contact and most people will be infected by HPV at some point in their lives.

The HPV vaccine works by prevention. It gives the best protection when it is given to children/adolescents before they are exposed to infection. This is why the HPV vaccine is offered to children as part of the Norwegian Childhood Immunisation Programme in 7th grade, well before they become sexually active.

In most cases, HPV infections clear up by themselves within a few months. However, the virus can occasionally cause long-term infection. In rare cases, this may lead to pre-stages of cancer, or cancer itself.

The most common form of cancer caused by HPV is cervical cancer in women. HPV can cause cancer in the colon (anus), mouth and throat in both sexes. It can also cause cancer in the vagina and external genitalia in women and in the penis in men. The HPV vaccine offers protection against these forms of cancer.

About the vaccine

The vaccine is given in the upper arm, in two doses with an interval of at least six months. The vaccine used is called Cervarix. As with all medicines, vaccines may cause unwanted effects. The most common from the HPV vaccine are swelling and redness at the site of the injection. Short-term fever, headache, tiredness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach pain have also been reported. The HPV vaccine has not been shown to cause chronic or serious illness, or to increase the risk of these. Symptoms experienced after vaccination are not necessarily a reaction to the vaccine but may be signs of an illness that needs medical attention. Contact your doctor if you are concerned.

All vaccinations in the Norwegian Childhood Immunisation Programme are voluntary. Parents should listen to their child's opinion. Read more about the vaccine, how vaccination is carried out and about the effects of the vaccine and possible unwanted effects on the website: www.fhi.no/vaccine/HPV

Remember to tell the nurse

Tell them if your child has any allergies or other health problems.

Vaccination with the first dose of HPV vaccine is planned for:

Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

Nurse: _____ Telephone number: _____

The second dose is usually given at least six months after the first dose. The nurse will let you know the dates for the second dose.

Tear off here

Pupil's name: _____ Date of birth: _____ Class: _____

I/We would like my child : ☐ to be vaccinated with the HPV vaccine
☐ not to be vaccinated with the HPV vaccine

Signature of parent/guardian: _____ Telephone number: _____

Information for the nurse: