

What you need to know about

HPV



Folkhälsomyndigheten
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

HPV (human papillomavirus) is a highly contagious virus that can lead to various types of cancer later in life. Vaccination against HPV protects against the cancer caused by the virus. All children are offered free vaccination by the school nurse in year 5 (ages 11-12).

HPV can lead to cancer

There are many different types of HPV. Not all variants lead to a serious illness, but several of them can cause cancer later in life. Most people are infected with HPV at some point in their lives, but many don't know it, because they cannot feel or see it.

HPV can spread when mucous membranes touch each other, for example when having sex. Most often, the infection heals itself, but sometimes it becomes long-lasting. This increases the risk of getting cancer later in life, for example in the throat, cervix, genitals (vagina, vulva or penis), or anus.

Every year, about 1,550 people in Sweden are diagnosed with some form of cancer caused by HPV.

Vaccination protects you, regardless of gender

The HPV vaccine protects against most variants of the virus that can cause cancer. All children are offered

the vaccination at school, because being vaccinated at a young age ensures the best protection.

The vaccine provides good protection

The HPV vaccine is administered all over the world, to protect people against cancer. Studies have shown that the vaccine provides good protection and that it is safe. In Sweden HPV vaccinations are recorded in the National Vaccination Register. This ensures that the vaccine recipient's protection against cancer can be followed up in the long term.

Do you want more information?

If you want to know more about the vaccine, contact your child's school nurse.

THE VACCINATION PROCESS

The school nurse will administer the vaccine as an injection in the upper arm. The vaccine is administered in two doses, with at least six months between injections. If your child is 15 years of age or older when they receive their first dose, they will need an additional one – three doses in total.

Before the vaccination

Talk to the school nurse if you have questions or concerns before the vaccination.

After the vaccination

It is normal to experience some tenderness, swelling or redness at the injection site, or itching in the upper arm. Some people experience a short-term fever, headaches, or might feel generally unwell. Allergic reactions are very rare. If you have questions or if your child feels unwell after their vaccination, you should contact the school nurse or your health care provider.

SKYDD
FÖR LIVET



Sweden's vaccination programme

All children in Sweden are offered protection against several serious diseases through vaccination. These vaccinations are administered at children's health centres and schools.

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS

- 🔹 **six weeks old**, they will receive their first vaccination, to protect them against rotavirus infection.
- 🔹 **three months old**, the second vaccination against rotavirus infection is administered. At the same time, they will also be vaccinated against seven other illnesses: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hib, pneumococcal infections, and hepatitis B.
- 🔹 **five months old**, it is time to repeat the vaccinations that your child received at their last visit, when they were three months old.

- 🔹 **one year old**, they will receive a third dose of protection against the same illnesses against which they were vaccinated at three and five months of age, except for rotavirus infection.
- 🔹 **18 months old**, the vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) will be administered.
- 🔹 **five years old**, they will receive their last vaccination at the children's health centre, a "booster" dose to protect them against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio.

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS IN

- 🔹 **Years 1-2**, they will receive their second dose of the MMR vaccine.
- 🔹 **Year 5**, like all their classmates, they will receive two vaccinations against human papillomavirus, HPV, to protect them against cancer caused by the virus.
- 🔹 **Years 8-9**, the last vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis is administered.

HPV VACCINATION IS PART OF SWEDEN'S VACCINATION PROGRAMME.

Below is an overview of the vaccinations offered to all children in Sweden, to prevent serious illnesses.

