

# **GARDASIL<sup>®</sup> - Human Papillomavirus Vaccine**

The GARDASIL<sup>®</sup> vaccine protects against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16, 18 and works best when given before any contact with these types of HPV. HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections (STI) in Canada and the world. GARDASIL<sup>®</sup> is **free** for girls in Grade 8.

## **Understanding HPV**

HPV is a common virus and there are many types. Some types cause no harm and go away on their own; others can cause diseases of the genital area and can develop into cervical cancer, pre-cancerous lesions or genital warts, depending on the HPV type. Types 6 and 11 cause genital warts. Types 16 and 18 cause:

- Cervical cancer
- Vulvar and vaginal cancer
- Cervical adenocarcinoma in situ (AIS)

Types 16 and 18 cause about 70% of cervical cancers and types 6 and 11 cause about 90% of genital warts. GARDASIL<sup>®</sup> helps prevent these diseases - but will not treat them.

## **How is GARDASIL<sup>®</sup> given?**

The GARDASIL<sup>®</sup> vaccine is a series of 3 shots. The vaccine is safe for females 9-45 years of age and males 9-26 years of age. Ideally, the doses are given as:

- First dose.
- Second dose: 2 months after first dose.
- Third dose: 6 months after the first dose.

## **Is GARDASIL<sup>®</sup> safe?**

**Yes.** Serious side effects are rare. Common side effects are similar to other vaccines: Pain, swelling, itching and redness at spot where the needle is given. Fever, nausea, dizziness and headache may occur.

## **Who should NOT get GARDASIL<sup>®</sup>?**

GARDASIL<sup>®</sup> is **not** recommended for:

- Pregnant women.
- Those allergic to **any** of the ingredients listed on the package.
- Those with an allergy to the vaccine.
- Those who feel ill, have a fever or infection worse than a cold. The dose should be delayed until the client is feeling better.

## **What about females who missed being vaccinated in grade 8?**

Other females can go to their doctor or local clinic and pay for the vaccine. Some health benefit plans will cover the cost.

## **How long will GARDASIL<sup>®</sup> protect against HPV infection?**

Research shows that the vaccine protects against infection with the HPV vaccine types for at least 5 years. Studies are underway to see if protection will last longer, or if a booster dose is needed.

...More



## **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Environmental Health & Prevention Services**

160 Exmouth Street  
Point Edward, Ontario N7T 7Z6  
Telephone: 519 383-8331  
Toll free: 1-800-667-1839  
Fax: 519 383-7092  
[www.lambtonhealth.on.ca](http://www.lambtonhealth.on.ca)

**Additional information about  
GARDASIL®**

GARDASIL® is not meant for treatment of active genital warts, or cervical, vulvar or vaginal cancers. However, if infected with one type of HPV, GARDASIL® can protect against the other 3 types. Females who receive GARDASIL® should continue cervical cancer screening and follow their doctor's advice on pap testing.

Severe reactions are rare. However, you should wait 15 minutes after your injection before leaving.

Report any severe reaction to your health care provider or to Community Health Services Department.