

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Parents

## 1. What is HPV?

HPV (Human papillomavirus) is a very common group of viruses that infect the skin and body linings. There are hundreds of types, and while many clear up on their own, some can cause genital warts and increase the risk of certain cancers.

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## 2. What cancers can HPV cause?

HPV is linked to several cancers, including:

- Cervical cancer (over 90% of cases are caused by HPV)
- Some cancers of the mouth and throat
- Anal and genital cancers (including vaginal, vulval, penile, and anal cancers)

These cancers can affect both males and females. Since 2019, the vaccine has been offered to both boys and girls.

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## 3. Why is my child being offered the HPV vaccine?

The vaccine helps protect your child from the high-risk HPV types that cause the majority of cervical cancers and other HPV-related cancers. It also protects against the two types of HPV that cause most genital warts.

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## 4. Is the HPV vaccine effective?

Yes. Since its introduction, cervical cancer rates have dropped by almost **90%** in women vaccinated at ages 12–13.

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## 5. Why do boys need the HPV vaccine too?

Because HPV can cause cancers in boys as well as girls. Evidence shows the vaccine protects both boys and girls from HPV-related cancers.

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## 6. Why is the vaccine given in Year 8?

The vaccine is most effective when given before a young person becomes sexually active and exposed to HPV. Year 8 ensures the best level of protection.

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## 7. How many doses does my child need?

**Just one dose** of the HPV vaccine provides effective protection.

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## 8. When will the vaccination take place?

The HPV vaccine will be offered in secondary schools across Cheshire West and Wirral between **April and July 2026**.

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## 9. What if my child is not in school or is home educated?

Catch-up clinics will be available for eligible young people who are not attending school.

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## 10. How will I give consent?

The School Age Immunisation Service will work with schools to ensure all parents receive information on how to give **yes or no** consent for their child. Or contact us directly if you need assistance.

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## 11. Who can I contact if I have questions?

Contact the School Age Immunisation Service directly via: -

Telephone: 0333 3583 397 Option 7 then Option 2 or

email us at:- [Imms.W-Chester-CW@intraheath.co.uk](mailto:Imms.W-Chester-CW@intraheath.co.uk)