



HEALTH MATTERS

• NUGGETS •

Human Papillomavirus

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the name of a very common group of virus infections that commonly causes skin or mucous membrane growths (warts).

Have you heard?

- There are more than 100 varieties of HPV.
- HPV can be prevented by vaccination of boys and girls from age 9-15 years.
- HPV is very common in unvaccinated South African girls aged 17-18 years.
- More than 57% of the above had high-risk HPV.
- HPV is a leading cause of cervical cancer in women in South Africa and in the Department of Defence.

Food for Thought

The South African government has introduced HPV vaccination on the Extended Programme of Immunisation. The government is running this programme through the schools.

Food for thought: Parents have to give permission for schools to do health screening including vaccination on boys and girls.

Myths and Facts

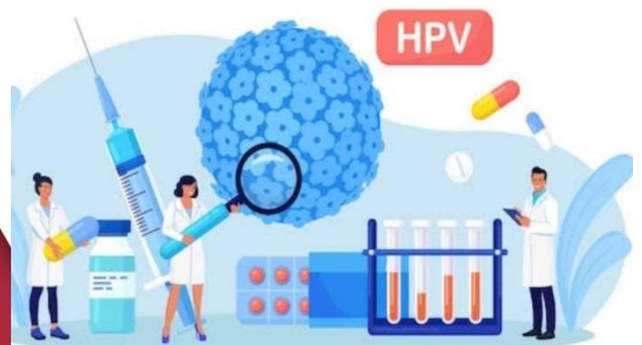
Fact: HPV can affect both men and women.

Myth: HPV can be cured.

Fact: HPV vaccine can be given to both boys and girls.

Myth: All HPV infections causes cancer.

Fact: HPV can be transmitted via sexual intercourse, non-penetrative, skin to skin contact, oral sex, kissing, bodily fluid (from infected person to uninfected person).



References:

Brotherton JML (2019). Impact of HPV Vaccination: Achievements and Future Challenges. Papillomavirus Res.
<https://www.unicef.org/stories/fast-facts-hpv-cervical-cancer>.
2024 National Department of Health/UNICEF HPV Information.

