

# Why do I need to get an HPV vaccination?

**“A vaccine is a dose of medicine that gets injected into you, which protects you against a disease”**

You might hear about HPV vaccinations coming to your school. Maybe you don't like injections. Maybe you're not sure what the injection will do. Maybe you're confused about what a vaccine is.

A vaccine is a dose of medicine that gets injected into you, which protects you against a disease. Your arm might be a little sore for a few seconds after the needle has gone in – but the pain should go away quickly. And the HPV vaccine will stay in your body forever once you have it, protecting you for the rest of your life.

The most important reason to get an HPV vaccination is that it protects you from getting several diseases. HPV, if you get it, can lead to cervical cancer, but also other cancers like oral, anal, throat or genital cancer. It can also lead to warts (small bumps or rough areas on your skin). These warts can show up on your genitals, or on other parts of your body.

HPV is easy to get – you can get it from having sex with even just one person. But if you've had the vaccine, you don't ever need to worry about getting this disease. That doesn't mean you shouldn't use protection when having sex! But it does mean you are safer than you would be without the vaccine.

So what you waiting for, speak to a nurse or doctor about getting the HPV vaccine!