

7. Why are boys not being given the vaccine?

This public health intervention is targeted to prevent HPV infection in girls and this protect their partners. Since HPV also causes anorectal and penile cancers, boys can still benefit indirectly.

8. Why should the girls be vaccinated against HPV?

HPV has been shown to cause up to 90% of cancers of the cervix. Vaccination against the virus is important to prevent girls from cervical cancer.

9. How long will the HPV vaccine provide protection?

HPV vaccine if given as a full course offers lasting or lifelong protection against HPV infection and HPV associated diseases.

10. Where can one get HPV vaccine?

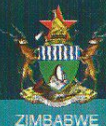
The vaccination will be conducted in all public, private schools and health facilities across the country during the vaccination or campaign week. Thereafter, health facilities will have some stocks for a month for the eligible girls who may have been missed during the campaign.

11. Who will be conducting the vaccination?

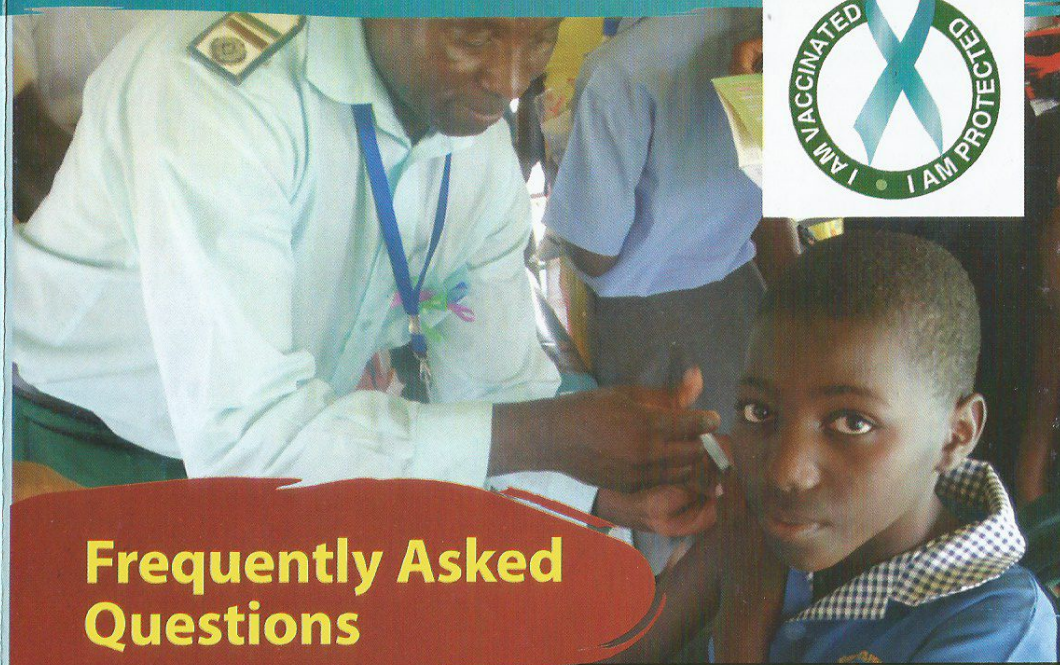
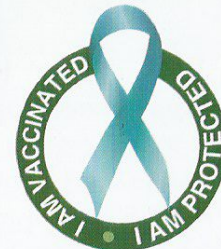
Teams of trained nurses will be visiting the schools and vaccinate the girls with the help of school health coordinators.

For more information visit your nearest health facility.

**Cervical Cancer Prevention is everyone's responsibility.
Get girls vaccinated against HPV!!!**



ZIMBABWE



Frequently Asked Questions

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

1. What is HPV?

HPV is the most common viral infection of the reproductive tract. It causes cervical cancer in women.

2. Who can get HPV?

Anyone (man and woman) who is sexually active can get HPV.

3. How is it spread?

A person infected with the HPV virus can transmit to his/her sexual partner.

4. What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer refers to a situation whereby abnormal cells in the cervix start to grow very quickly and cannot be controlled by normal body processes. Over time, normal cells in the cervix will be taken over by cancer cells, which may spread to other parts of the body and disturb normal function, (metastasis). With early diagnosis and treatment, cervical cancer is manageable and even curable. However delaying to seek help causes debility and death.

5. Is it possible to tell if a woman has cervical cancer just by looking at her?

The cervix is an internal organ, (the mouth of the uterus or womb), therefore a special screening test is required to detect cervical cancer.

6. Is it possible to tell if a person (man or woman) has HPV just by looking at them?

No, the Human Papillomavirus is too small to be seen by the naked eye. HPV infection can be seen by a special laboratory test.

HPV vaccine

1. Has this vaccine been tested and used before?

Yes, the vaccine has been tested and used in many other countries, where it has greatly reduced the screening burden and number of cervical cancers. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the vaccine as a proven, effective, and simple cancer prevention measure. In Zimbabwe, HPV vaccine has been used in 3 districts since 2014 with very good results following its approval and registration by the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe.

2. How safe and effective is the vaccine?

The vaccine is very safe and effective. It is a WHO recommended vaccine and has been used in 131 countries globally. The HPV vaccine provides almost 100% protection from HPV if two doses are given spaced to between 6 to 15 months apart, or all three (3) doses in the case of HIV infected individuals are received before being infected with HPV. In the districts where HPV vaccination was conducted, there were no serious side effects.

3. Will a person get HPV infection from the HPV vaccine?

The vaccine is non-infectious and you will not get HPV infection through vaccination. There is no evidence of anyone who got infected through vaccination.

4. What is the HPV vaccination campaign?

The Ministry of Health and Child Care, in collaboration with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, UNICEF, GAVI, WHO and other partners will be conducting annual national HPV vaccination campaigns to vaccinate all girls in grade 5 in schools, or 10 years out of school at health facilities. During the first year, all girls from 10 to 14 years are eligible for vaccination.

5. Who should be vaccinated during this campaign?

As from May 2018, girls who are 10-14 years in all public and private schools; and also those out of school will get the vaccine at schools or health facilities. As from 2019, only grade 5 or 10 years out of school girls will be vaccinated at schools or clinics.

6. Why are only girls (10-14 years) being vaccinated during this campaign?

The target are girls between 10-14 years in the first year then grade 5 or 10 years out of school girls thereafter because most of them are not yet sexually active and therefore HPV negative.