

How many doses of the HPV vaccine are needed?

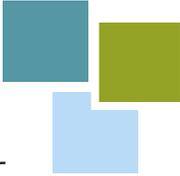
The vaccine is given as an injection in the upper arm. For a girl to be fully protected, she must receive 3 doses of HPV vaccine. The 2nd dose should be given 2 months after the 1st dose, and the 3rd dose should be given 4 months after the 2nd dose.

Is the HPV vaccine safe?

Yes. The vaccine is safe and it works. The Government of Zambia has approved the vaccine, and the vaccine is being used in more than 50 other countries. However, as with any injection, a girl may experience pain, itching, or swelling at the site of the injected arm after injection.

STAY PROTECTED!

All Grade 4 girls should get the HPV vaccine against cervical cancer from their schools.



What You Need to Know About **CERVICAL CANCER** and the Vaccine Against It



Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health
Republic of Zambia



What is Cervical Cancer?

The cervix is the lower part of the womb that connects to the vagina. Cervical cancer is a serious disease of the cervix. It's the most common cancer in Zambia and many women die from it.

A virus called Human Papillomavirus (HPV) causes cervical cancer. HPV is transmitted through sex.

Who can get the HPV infection?

Anyone who has had sex can get the HPV infection. A person that has HPV infection often does not see or feel anything. While both boys and girls can get the HPV infection, only girls can develop cervical cancer later on in their lives. Not all girls who have HPV will develop cervical cancer.

The HPV Vaccine



Can cervical cancer be prevented?

The HPV vaccine can prevent cervical cancer. Regular cervical cancer screening can also prevent cervical cancer. Any woman who has ever had sex before should go for screening.

How does the HPV vaccine work?

The HPV vaccine prevents adolescent girls from getting an HPV infection and developing cervical cancer later in life. The vaccine does NOT affect the ability of girls to have children in the future.

Who should get the HPV vaccine?

All girls in Grade 4 should receive the HPV vaccine at their school. 10 year old girls who are not attending school should receive the vaccine at the nearest clinic or health post.

The HPV vaccine is now available in Lusaka, Kafue, and Chongwe districts. Plans are underway to introduce it to the rest of the country.