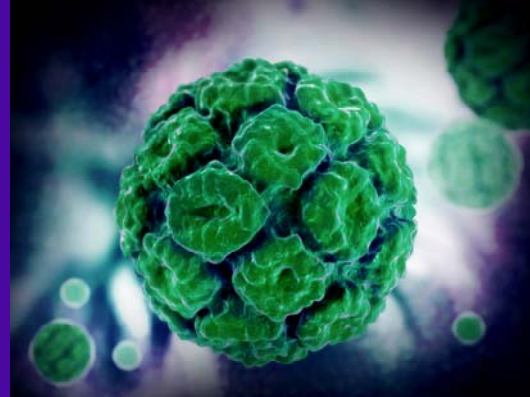



HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV)




HPV is a highly contagious infection that is common in the United States. It is transmitted through intimate skin-to-skin contact. There are over 150 types of HPV, 40 of which cause infection. Almost all men and women will get at least one type of HPV at some point in their life. Certain types of HPV can cause genital warts and cancers of the cervix, penis, vagina, anus, and oropharynx (throat).


What causes it?

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- ▶ HPV is named for the warts (papillomas) that some types of HPV can cause.
 - ▶ HPV is spread by intimate skin-to-skin contact with someone who has an HPV infection. It can be spread when an infected person has no signs or symptoms.
 - ▶ Sometimes HPV can cause genital warts or cancer.


What are the signs and symptoms?

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- ▶ Genital warts can be a small bump or bumps in the genital area. They can be small or large, raised or flat, or shaped like a cauliflower.
 - ▶ Most people infected with HPV have no signs or symptoms.
 - ▶ Most of the time, HPV goes away on its own without causing any health problems. There is no way to tell if a person's infection will develop into a more serious health problem.

What are the treatment options?

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- ▶ There is no treatment for the virus itself. However, there may be treatments for the health problems that HPV can cause.
 - ▶ Genital warts can be treated by your health care provider or with prescription medication.
 - ▶ Cervical pre-cancer can be treated. Getting Pap tests is the best way to identify problems before cervical cancer develops.
 - ▶ Other HPV cancer treatments can include surgery, radiation, and/or chemotherapy.

How can it be prevented?

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- ▶ Get vaccinated against HPV. Two doses of the vaccination are routinely recommended for boys and girls at 9-15 years of age and three doses at 16-26 years of age for catch-up immunizations.
 - ▶ The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention.

Be sure to talk with your health care provider about vaccinating your child against HPV-related cancers.

For more information on the vaccine, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hpv-gardasil.html>

BUREAU OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/bcd.htm> DHSDPHBCD@dhs.wi.gov

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