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## Quick Facts on HPV Vaccination

- **Who has access to it?** Free school-based vaccination programs are being rolled out and phased in throughout Canada, but not all the provinces have adopted immunization strategies. And not every woman will be able to access free vaccination. Priority will be placed on immunizing girls before the onset of intercourse. Those who are not covered by this program can purchase it from their health-care provider.
- **What is the cost?** Vaccination cost varies: the cost per injection from the manufacturer is \$135. Most local health services and student health services will not add to the cost. Offices will often charge inventory and manipulation fees bringing the cost to \$150 or more. In some jurisdictions, physicians are not paid to administer the injection, and a fee for their services would be added to the cost. Many nurses can also deliver it.
- **When do you administer it?** The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NAC) and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) recommend that women 9 to 26 get vaccinated. This includes women who have not had any sexual activity, women who have had sexual intercourse, and even women with a history of warts or abnormal Pap smear results. For women over 26 and all men, studies are ongoing and further recommendations will be made once the data becomes available. There are no contraindications to vaccination but the value may be lower than for women 9-26. [Read the Canadian Consensus Guidelines on Human Papillomavirus.](#)
- **Where else can patients get vaccinated?** Vaccination may also be carried by local public health authorities, immunization clinics, pediatric or travel clinics. Some physicians would write a script to be filled at a local pharmacy. The problem is keeping the vaccines intact, as they can be destroyed if mishandled or exposed to harmful temperatures. This can be avoided if the product is carried directly from the pharmacist to the clinic and properly protected from freezing and extreme warmth.

