The main goal of hepatitis vaccination is to protect your child against hepatitis B and A and their complications. If your child was born on or after January 1, 2006, he or she may need to be vaccinated.

HPVs such as condylomas (anal or genital warts) and precancerous cervical lesions may be the first sign of an HPV infection, which is very often asymptomatic. Since September 1, 2016, the HPV vaccine has also been offered to children aged 11 and 12 years who are girls and boys.

There are a number of types of hepatitis, but hepatitis A and hepatitis B are the most common. Hepatitis A is transmitted when water or food contaminated by the stool of an infected person is consumed, e.g., when people use unclean water to prepare food or when food handlers are not adequately hand-washed. Hepatitis B is transmitted through contact with infected blood, semen, mucous membrane or wound and the blood, sperm, or vaginal secretions of an infected person. For example:

- During unprotected sexual activity.
- Through contact with an infected person's blood.
- From a mother to her baby at birth.
- From a mother to her baby through breastfeeding.
- From a mother to her baby during pregnancy.
- Through accidental contact with an injured person's blood.
- By accidental contact with an injured person's blood with a broken skin or mucous membrane.
- During unprotected sexual relations.
- From sharing needles or any other injection material.
- From a person to another person in close contact through large aerosolized droplets.

It is estimated that 2 to 3 million people are infected with hepatitis B and A in Québec each year. These infections can be prevented by vaccination.

HPAs can also exist for several years without symptoms or signs visible to the naked eye. Treating condylomas may be painful and can require several visits to the doctor. People with an HPV infection very often don’t know they have the infection. This is why the HPV vaccine is so important. It is the only preventive measure proposed against this disease.

No. There are no added risks to your child in receiving the vaccines at one time. Are the possible reactions more severe? The risk of being infected by the same HPV is higher for girls who have already received the HPV vaccine more than once. If you do not want your child to receive the combination vaccine, your child will receive either the hepatitis B vaccine alone or the hepatitis A vaccine alone.

How can I protect myself against HIV? It is not possible to protect yourself against HIV by taking the same precautions used to protect yourself against hepatitis B and A. In Québec, hepatitis B and A have been shown to be 100% effective.

The vaccine administered at school protects against hepatitis B and A. In Quebec, hepatitis B and A have been shown to be 100% effective.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against hepatitis B. Your child will receive two doses of each vaccine—one at least two months apart. If your child is 2 years of age or older, he or she can receive an additional dose of vaccine 2 to 3 years after the first dose.

The vaccines for hepatitis B and A are very safe and commonly practiced by all children. There is a very low risk of severe allergic reaction to each vaccine. More than 50% of boys and girls may experience pain, swelling, or redness at the injection site. Less than 10% of children develop fever, or experience itchiness at the injection site.
HPV vaccine

What does the HPV vaccine consist of?
The vaccine administered in school protects against nine types of HPV: 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58. It is composed of the purified parts of the viruses that cause warts and cancer. The vaccine contains no active or inactive viruses, and therefore cannot cause the diseases it protects against. The vaccine is composed of the purified parts of the virus, which stimulates the immune system to produce antibodies against these types of HPV.

Is the vaccine effective?
Yes, in more than 98% of cases, a person who is not already infected with one of the types included in the vaccine, will produce antibodies against those HPV. This will help prevent infection and reduce the risk of developing cancer.

The annual average number of cancer cases that could be avoided by getting vaccinated against HPVs is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Average number of cases per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cervical cancer</td>
<td>281 – 381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer of the vagina</td>
<td>15 – 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer of the vulva</td>
<td>64 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer of the anus</td>
<td>36 – 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer of the throat</td>
<td>68 – 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer of the penis</td>
<td>30 – 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer of the throat</td>
<td>12 – 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer of the penis</td>
<td>48 – 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer of the vulva</td>
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In more than 98% of cases, a person who is not already infected with one of the types included in the vaccine, will produce antibodies against those HPV. This will help prevent infection and reduce the risk of developing cancer.

Is the HPV vaccine safe?
Yes. The HPV vaccine is safe and effective for people who have had one or more sexual partners, and it is recommended for all girls and young women. There is currently no reliable test to detect precancerous lesions in men.

Does the HPV vaccine replace screening tests?
No. The most common screening test for precancerous lesions in women is the Pap test, or cervical smear, which is done every two years. It is recommended that women age 21 and over who are sexually active get screened for cervical cancer every two years. There is currently no reliable test to detect precancerous lesions in men.

How long does the protection last?
The HPV vaccine will provide protection for many years. The HPV vaccine will provide protection for many years. The HPV vaccine will provide protection for many years.

Useful Websites

- Canadian Paediatric Society: [HPV vaccine: What teens need to know](https://www.cpspediatrics.ca/en/health-problems/immunizations/teens/hpv-vaccine)
- Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada: [HPV vaccines: Questions and Answers](https://sogc.org/guidance/2005/05/vaccination/
- Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada: [HPV vaccines: Questions and Answers](https://sogc.org/guidance/2005/05/vaccination/)
- Canadian Paediatric Society: [HPV vaccine: What teens need to know](https://www.cpspediatrics.ca/en/health-problems/immunizations/teens/hpv-vaccine)
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For more information, see also the Vaccination file on the Portal santé mieux-être including a new section on the Advices for Reducing the Pain and Anxiety of Vaccination in Children, [sante.gouv.qc.ca/vaccination](https://sante.gouv.qc.ca/vaccination).