

## **Human Papillomavirus Vaccine** **Information Sheet for Parents**

Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV Vaccine) is introduced into the national immunization programme to prevent cervical cancer in future. In Sri Lanka, cervical cancer is the second commonest cancer among women. Annually, 850-1000 advanced stage cervical cancer cases are admitted to hospitals for treatment. Majority of advanced cervical cancer cases are ended up with complications or even die.

Majority of cervical cancers, are due to virus called Human Papillomavirus .this virus has the ability to change cells in the cervix in to cancer cells without causing external signs and symptoms. This causes cervical cancer in future as the women grows old. Cervical cancer screening is one method available for older women for early detection of cervical cancers. By this stage cancer cells have started to develop. In this method try to identify and prevent further development into advanced stages of cervical cancer. Vaccination with HPV vaccine is another method which can prevent cervical cancers due to human papilloma virus types before develop cancer cells. This is why it is required to vaccinate girls at their young age.

Human papilloma virus has different subtypes called genotypes (more than 100 types) in which some of these types can cause cervical cancers. It has been identified that 99% of cervical cancers are due to any of these types of the Human Papilloma viruses. Out of these different types, type 16 and type 18 are the most cancerous types causes 70% of cervical cancers. This cervical cancer preventive vaccine gives the protection for these cervical cancer causing high risk types of 16 and 18 and prevents development of cervical cancer due to these types in future when they become adult women. However, it has been identified that there is a protection for other cervical cancer causing types also by giving this vaccine. Cervical cancer screening in older women will be continuing and requires even though the HPV vaccine is given to girls in Schools. In developed ( America, UK, Australia etc..) and in some developing countries in our region( Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and some states in India) is implementing school based HPV vaccination programme successfully.

HPV is given through National Immunization Programme in the National immunization schedule from 2017. This vaccine is a safe and globally registered vaccine to use since 2006. In Sri Lanka, HPV vaccine is registered to use and available since 2012 and the

Ministry of Health has taken the decision to vaccinate girls through National Immunization Programme aiming prevention of cervical cancers in future.

All girls in grade 6 are given the HPV vaccination on completion of 10 years. This vaccine will be given to your daughter in the school as 2 doses. If the child misses the HPV vaccination due to any reason from the school, this can be taken from your MOH office clinic. But make sure that you give both doses of the HPV vaccine (in 6 months interval) for the completion of expected protection for cervical cancer. The vaccine will be given in grade 6 and the second dose will be given in the school again after 6 months in grade 6 or 7. HPV vaccine dose can be given together with aTd vaccine on the same day.

HPV vaccine is very safe vaccine and mild common local reactions (such as pain and redness) can be experienced as for any other vaccination. Severe side effects are very rare and other country experiences shows no severe adverse events.

Please inform your area Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and the Public Health Inspector (PHI) visiting your daughter's school to vaccinate your child with both doses of HPV vaccine to protect your daughter from cervical cancer caused by Human Papilloma viruses. Your request for both doses of HPV vaccination is attached herewith for your convenience.

Further information

Contact:

- Medical officer of Health of your area
- Epidemiology Unit (Ministry of Health), No 231, De Saram Place, Colombo 10, 0112695112, email: [chepid@sltnet.lk](mailto:chepid@sltnet.lk)
- Read: Human Papillomavirus Vaccine: WHO position paper, October 2014, Weekly Epidemiological Record, No.43,2014,89,465-492, <http://www.who.int/wer/2014/wer8943/en/>



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**2017**



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An information sheet on Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for cervical cancer prevention is attached herewith for your information.

HPV vaccine is given through the National Immunization Programme as a school based vaccination from 2017 for all girls in Grade 6.

Please be kind enough to send "Child Health Development Record"(the booklet containing Immunization details of the child) along with your daughter to the school on ..... for HPV vaccination.

Epidemiology Unit  
Ministry of Health

Medical Officer of Health

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I received the information sheet on the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for cervical cancer prevention. Herewith I am sending the Child Health Development Record.

Any Remarks

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Name of the Mother/ Father/ Guardian

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Signature of the Mother/ Father / Guardian