

## Quick Facts on School Vaccines

### Meningococcal Disease (Meningitis)

Is an aggressive bacterial infection in the blood that:

- Affects the lining of the brain and spinal cord;
- Causes a serious blood infection that can damage your organs;
- Can cause serious, long-term problems; it is deadly.

It is **spread** by sharing water bottles, eating utensils, kissing, coughing, and/or sneezing.

The adolescent vaccine protects against 4 strains (A,C,Y,W-135) of bacterial meningitis.

### Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Is a highly contagious viral infection that causes:

- 90% of cervical cancers, 90% of genital warts, as well as cancers of the vulva, vagina, penis, anus, mouth and throat.
- Approximately 75% of sexually active Canadians will have at least one HPV infection in their lifetime.

HPV is **spread** by skin-to-skin contact in the genital area (penetration is not required) or during genital, anal, or oral sex.

**GARDASIL<sup>®</sup>9** vaccine protects against 9 strains of HPV (6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, 58) it is up to 90% effective at preventing most of the genital warts and HPV-related cancers

### Hepatitis B (HB)

Is a highly infectious, viral infection that can cause:

- Flu-like symptoms
- Abdominal pain
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin, eyes)
- Serious liver damage
- Death

It is **spread** from contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person or objects contaminated with their blood (razors, nail clippers, used injection drug equipment).

The vaccine protects against the HB virus.

### Vaccination Facts:

- Vaccination is the best prevention for these 3 infections. These vaccinations work best when given before any contact or exposure.
- All 3 vaccines are **free** and offered to all boys and girls in Grade 7 in Ontario as part of the routine school-based immunization program.
- In Grade 7, the immune system is well developed and therefore, students only need 2 doses of both HPV and HB.

### Are 3 shots ok on the same day? YES...

- Vaccines are given in the muscle of the upper arm;
- Our body's immune system is exposed to and responds to numerous viruses and bacteria daily.

### Common vaccination side-effects:

- Redness, tenderness, and swelling at the injection site, mild headache. Occasionally fever or chills can occur (this means the immune system is working).
- Serious side-effects are very rare.

For additional information you may call and talk with a nurse at 519-383-3822 or toll-free at 1-800-667-1839 ext. 3822.

### Additional Resources:

- [Canadian Immunization Guide](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide)  
[www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide)
- [hpvinfo.ca](http://hpvinfo.ca)

### References:

Government of Canada.(2016, September 1). *Canadian Immunization Guide: Part 4 - Active Vaccines*. Retrieved May 2, 2019, from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines.html>

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) (2015, October 1). *ALL ABOUT HPV*. Retrieved May 2, 2019, from <http://hpvinfo.ca/>

