



澳門特別行政區政府  
Governo da Região Administrativa de Macau  
衛生局  
Serviços de Saúde

*(Translation)*

## Government of Macao Special Administrative Region Free HPV Vaccination Programme

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (also known as “cervical cancer vaccine”) has been added to the immunization programme of the Macao SAR since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

Eligible individuals and arrangement (the following individuals must be Macao residents):

1. Females aged below 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 (i.e. those born after 1<sup>st</sup> September 1995);
2. The vaccination is generally given to females in primary 6 (i.e. 11-13 years of age); personnel of health centres will visit schools to provide mass vaccination services;
3. Eligible individuals who are studying in local primary or secondary schools will be arranged to receive the vaccination in schools; those who fail to join the mass vaccination will be vaccinated separately.

### **Introduction of cervical cancer vaccine (HPV vaccine)**

99% of cervical cancer cases are caused by human papillomavirus infection. At present, two HPV vaccines are available to prevent about 70% of cervical cancer by preventing infection by two high risk HPV types (HPV types 16 and 18). One of the HPV vaccines also prevents low risk HPV types (HPV types 6 and 11) that cause genital warts.

### **How is it given?**

The cervical cancer vaccine (HPV vaccine) is given in a series of 3 intramuscular injections. Vaccination schedule of the two HPV vaccines are slightly different, i.e. at 0, 1 and 6 months, or at 0, 2 and 6 months.

### **When is the best time to be vaccinated?**

The vaccines are most effective if given before first sexual exposure. Also, younger immune systems produce a higher level of antibodies against HPV.

### **Is the vaccine safe?**

Based on large clinical trials and post-marketing surveillance worldwide, there are no proven deaths or serious health issues associated with the HPV vaccines, the vaccines are considered safe and effective. HPV vaccine has been added to the public health vaccination programme in some European and American countries.



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**Are there any side effects from the vaccine?**

1. The common side effects are similar to that from other vaccinations, such as soreness and swelling at the injection site and fever, which are usually mild and short-lasting (1 to 2 days).
2. Some preteens and teens might faint after getting the vaccine; this is usually attributed to their nervousness instead of the vaccine itself.

**How can cervical cancer be prevented?**

HPV vaccine protects against approximately 70% of all cervical cancers, but the rest 30% can still be caused by other high risk HPV types. The vaccine will not treat or get rid of existing HPV infections. Therefore, even if vaccinated, women who are sexually active should still have regular cervical smear screening test (also known as pap smear), maintain a healthy lifestyle, practice safer sex (i.e. use a condom properly, reduce the number of sex partners, avoid partner with multiple sex partners), and avoid sex in early age.