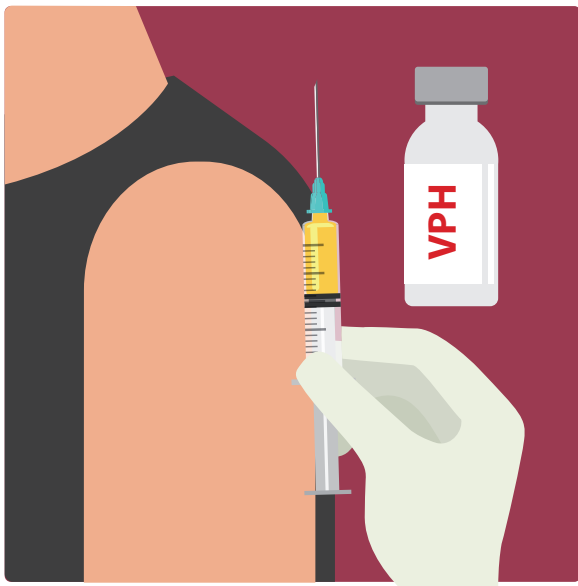


The human papillomavirus (HPV) is transmitted mainly through sexual contact. Vaccination prior to the start of a person's sex life is the best tool for preventing HPV. In Spain, the human papillomavirus vaccination is included in the vaccination programme for girls and preadolescents of 12 years old and for adults vulnerable to this virus.

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATION IN VULNERABLE PEOPLE



01

HPV is formed by a group of over 100 interrelated strains of virus. These viruses live in cells found on the surface of the skin and on mucosal surfaces such as the vagina, the anus, the cervix, the vulva, under the penis' foreskin and urethra; inside the nose, mouth and throat; the trachea and the bronchi; and under the eyelids. Around 75% of HPV strains cause common warts on the skin (and sometimes on the arms, the chest, the hands and the feet). The remaining 25% of strains of HPV affect the mucous membranes.

HPV is very easily transmitted. Most people acquire it shortly after the start of their sex life. Neither sexual penetration nor the exchange of fluids is necessary for HPV to be transmitted. This virus can be spread through skin-to-skin genital contact even if the infected person displays no symptoms. The virus may also be found in zones of the genital and anal area that condoms cannot protect. Therefore, although the use of condoms reduces the risk of acquiring HPV, it does not eliminate it completely.

HPV does not cause symptoms and in most cases the infection usually clears up in under two years. Many people are never aware they have been infected by HPV. If the infection persists, some low-risk strains may cause genital warts, which are very common and infectious. Other high-risk HPV strains may cause precancerous lesions or cancer. HPV is the cause of most cases of cervical cancer and many cancers of the vagina, vulva, anus, penis or oropharynx (cancer of the throat and mouth).

02

HPV VACCINATION

Vaccination prior to the start of a person's sex life is the best tool for preventing HPV. HPV vaccines contain neither the full virus nor viral genetic material and cannot therefore produce the disease. The vaccines available are safe and effective and work by stimulating the production of defences (antibodies) against HPV.

Vaccines prevent precancerous lesions and cancers that affect the cervix, vulva, vagina, and anus, and genital warts. All of these conditions are caused by specific strains of HPV from which the vaccine offers protection.

gt grupo de trabajo sobre tratamientos del VIH
ENTIDAD DECLARADA DE UTILIDAD PÚBLICA
ONG DE DESARROLLO

SUBVENCIÓN

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA / MINISTERIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES Y AGENCIA 2030
GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA / MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD
SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE SANIDAD / DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE SALUD PÚBLICA
SECRETARÍA REGIONAL DE SANIDAD DE CATALUÑA

POR SOLIDARIDAD OTROS FINES DE INTERÉS SOCIAL

Generalitat de Catalunya / Departament de Justícia

Generalitat de Catalunya / Salut / Agència de Salut Pública de Catalunya

Ajuntament de Barcelona / ÀREA DE QUALITAT DE VIDA, IGUALTAT I ESPORTS

Diputació Barcelona / ÀREA DE BENESTAR SOCIAL

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In Spain, the HPV vaccination is included in vaccination programme for girls at the age of 12 and is free.

The vaccination schedule includes 2 doses, administered at least 5-6 months apart (depending on the vaccine used). Young girls from 13 to 18 years old who have not been previously vaccinated, or who have been partially vaccinated, are given 3 doses according to a schedule of 0, 1-2, 6 months (depending on the vaccine used).

For children and adolescents, although the vaccine is authorized in Spain, it is not part of the vaccination programme and is therefore not free.

03

ACCESS TO THE HPV VACCINATION FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

In Spain, moreover, since 2018 free HPV vaccination has been recommended for adults particularly susceptible to HPV. The recommended vaccination schedule is 3 doses administered at 0, 2 and 6 months. The following people are considered vulnerable:

- People with WHIM syndrome (primary immunodeficiency; the vaccine covers the HPV 6 and 11 strains).
- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men -GBMSM - (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women who have received a solid organ transplant (SOT) or a hemopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) (up to 26 years old).

The following list shows the recommendations of the autonomous communities for vaccinating people considered vulnerable to HPV.

ANDALUSIA

- People with WHIM syndrome (no age limit).
- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST or diseases for which immunosuppressants are required (up to 26 years old).

ARAGÓN

- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST (up to 26 years old).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).

ASTURIAS

- People with WHIM syndrome and other primary immunodeficiencies (no age limit).
- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- GBMSM men (no age limit).
- People in sex work (no age limit).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST or diseases that require immunosuppression treatment (up to 26 years old).

BALEARIC ISLANDS

- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).

CANARY ISLANDS

- Women who have had cervical surgery (from 25 to 45 years old).
- Women with inflammatory bowel disease.
- GBMSM men.



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CANTABRIA

- People with WHIM syndrome (no age limit).
- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit)

CASTILLA Y LEÓN

- People with WHIM syndrome (no age limit).
- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST (up to 26 years old)

CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

- People with WHIM syndrome (no age limit).
- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).

CATALONIA

- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- People with congenital bone marrow failure syndrome (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).
- People who have suffered sexual abuse (up to 26 years old).

MADRID AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY

- People with WHIM syndrome (no age limit).
- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST (up to 45 years old).

VALENCIA AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY

- People with HIV (no age limit).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).

EXTREMADURA

Extremadura does not currently fund any group of people considered as vulnerable. Funding for these groups will start in January 2022.

GALICIA

- People with WHIM syndrome (no age limit).
- People with HIV (up to 45 years old).
- GBMSM men (up to 45 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 45 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST (up to 45 years old).

LA RIOJA

- People with WHIM syndrome (no age limit).
- People with HIV (up to 26 years old).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST (up to 26 years old).



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NAVARRA

- People with WHIM syndrome and other congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies (no age limit).
- People with HIV (no age limit).
- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 26 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST or diseases for which immunosuppressants are required (no age limit).

BASQUE COUNTRY

- People with WHIM syndrome and other immunodeficiencies (no age limit).
- People with HIV (up to 45 years old).
- GBMSM men (up to 45 years old).
- People in sex work (up to 45 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (no age limit).
- Women with SOT or HCST or diseases for which immunosuppressants are required (up to 45 years old).
- Women being treated with the immunosuppressant Azathioprine (up to 45 years old).

MURCIA REGION

- GBMSM men (up to 26 years old).
- People with HIV (depending on the risk of exposure and with a prior HPV negative serological test result).
- Women with high-grade intraepithelial lesion of the cervix (no age limit).

CEUTA

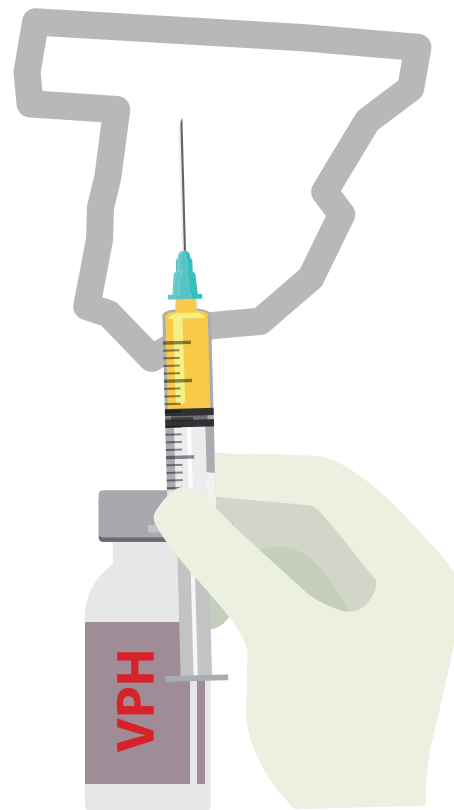
There is no information available as to whether the autonomous city funds HPV vaccination among people considered as vulnerable.

MELILLA

- Women with primary immunodeficiency (up to 45 years old).
- Women who have had cervical surgery (up to 65 years old).
- Women with Inflammatory bowel disease (up to 65 years old).

Source: Workgroup for vaccination among the adult population and risk groups of the Committee for Immunization Programme and Registry. Vaccination among risk groups of all ages and in specific situations. Public Health Committee of the Interterritorial Council of the Spanish National Health Service. Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare, July 2018.

Note: The contents of this sheet were drafted in September 2021. The recommendations may therefore not be up-to-date. The information is not intended to replace advice from a health professional. Health decisions should always be taken after consulting health professionals.



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