



Frequently Asked Questions on
**Human Papilloma Virus
Vaccine (HPV)**

QUESTION 1: What is Human Papilloma Virus?

ANSWER: HPV is group of more than 150 virus and more than 40 of these virus infect the genital area and can cause cancer of the cervix, vagina, vulva, penis, anus and rectum as well as genital warts.

QUESTION 2: Who does it affect?

ANSWER: HPVs are highly transmissible, and most sexually active men and women will acquire an HPV infection at some time in their lives.

QUESTION 3: Is it safe?

ANSWER: The vaccine is safe and is recommended by World Health Organization WHO and is being used in other countries

QUESTION 4: Does it have any side effects?

ANSWER: Side effects are rare. The most common side effects include pain or itching on the site Mild effects include rashes, fever, headache, dizziness and nausea. These symptoms do not last long and children will be observed after vaccination to see if there have any of the symptoms.

Observations should continue even at home and any side effects observed, the child should be taken to the nearest health facility for assessment and management by the health workers.

QUESTION 5: Why only 9-13 year olds only?

ANSWER: The age (9-13 years) and Std 5, 6 and 7 were selected because this is the age where most girls would have not been exposed to the HPV vaccine through sexual contact (would have not had their first sexual debut)

QUESTION 6: How about 13 year olds in secondary schools?

ANSWER: The target group is only girls who are still at primary school in Std 5, 6 and 7 and 9 – 13 years is used to get the girls of the same age who are not going are not going.

QUESTION 7: What if my child turns 13 years the day after the vaccine?

ANSWER: If the girl turns 13 years the day of the vaccine and is in STD 5, 6 or 7, the girl will be given the vaccine because all the girls in those classes will be vaccinated.

However girls who are below 9 years and are in those classes will not be vaccinated. They will be vaccinated next year when they will be 9 years old.

QUESTION 8. What are the advantages of HPV Vaccine?

ANSWER: HPV vaccine (Gardasil) prevents precancerous lesions, cancer and anogenital warts from four types, 6, 11, 16 and 18. Gardasil prevents 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts.

QUESTION 9: What about those out of school?

ANSWER: Girls 9 -13 years out of school will be vaccinated in clinics.

QUESTION 10. What should I bring along when taking my child for vaccine?

ANSWER: There is HPV vaccination card to record in after vaccinating the girls will be provided at school or at the health facilities.

QUESTION 11: Why are boys not vaccinated?

ANSWER: Though Human Papilloma virus can cause other cancers like cancer of vulva, penis and rectum , cervical cancer remain the highest leading cancer among cancer related deaths globally and in Botswana thus looking at the disease burden of cervical cancer girls are given the priority.

QUESTION 12: Where else can my child vaccinated besides school?

ANSWER: Only girls 9 -13 years out of school will be vaccinated in health facilities

QUESTION 13: Can I also come if I am above 9-13 years?

ANSWER: No

QUESTION 14: Do I have to sign a consent form?

ANSWER: No consent is required just like with other vaccines, unless if it is communication from the schools to inform the parents about the vaccination

QUESTION 15: When and what time is the HPV Vaccine going to be administered?

ANSWER: The vaccine will be given from 23rd – 27th February, 2015 during school time

QUESTION 16: What should I do after the vaccine?

ANSWER: Observe and report any of the above mentioned side effects

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For More Information Contact
Ministry of Health
Private Bag 0038
Gaborone

www.moh.gov.bw

