

## What is Human Papillomavirus (HPV) ?

HPV is the most common of all sexually transmitted diseases, and can be caught even without full intercourse. Condoms, which should always be used, do not guarantee total protection against this virus. **Roughly seventy five per cent of people come into contact with the HPV virus at least once in their lives.**

**Some strains of HPV can cause lesions which may, eventually, turn into certain types of cervical tumour.** The HPV virus is actually the greatest known risk factor for uterine cervical cancer, the first tumour recognised by the World Health Organisation as being entirely ascribable to an infection.

## Why is vaccination recommended ?

**Because this vaccination prevents cancer of the neck of the womb caused in approximately 75% of cases of Human Papillomavirus types "16" and "18."** The few, if any, side-effects of vaccination (slight reddening of the skin around the injection site and occasionally a low-grade fever) tend to be mild and short-lasting.

## Who is eligible for vaccination ?

**All girls aged eleven and over.**

## Why be vaccinated so young ?

Because immune response in this age group is greater and therefore there is a bigger benefit. **Furthermore** the vaccine is extremely effective when administered before any sexual activity with another person begins because it **guarantees a higher level of protection prior to any potential contact with the HPV virus.**

## When is it free of charge ?

Vaccination is completely free for all girls **aged between their eleventh and eighteenth birthdays.**

## What does the vaccination consist of ?

Three intramuscular doses (jags in the arm) over a period of six months.

## Does vaccination replace periodic screening (Pap Test) ?

**No, vaccination does not replace periodic screening for cervical cancer** (Pap Tests) but is a part of early diagnosis programmes (**Pap Tests and others**).

## Where does vaccination take place ?

**At the Tuscan local health authority USL vaccination centres, where both girls and their parents will be able to find all the requisite information.**

## Further information

Full information on the Human Ppapillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme can be found on the regional website [www.regione.toscana.it/iointantomivaccino](http://www.regione.toscana.it/iointantomivaccino). You can also call the regional helpline on **800 556060** (free of charge) or consult the Public Relations Offices in any of the Tuscan Health Centres.

| Azienda sanitaria        | Telefono    | Azienda sanitaria | Telefono                       |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| AUSL 1 Massa and Carrara | 800 565509  | AUSL 8 Arezzo     | 0575 254000                    |
| AUSL 2 Lucca             | 800 869143  | AUSL 9 Grosseto   | 800 320651                     |
| AUSL 3 Pistoia           | 800 861213  | AUSL 10 Florence  | 840 003003<br>(from landlines) |
| AUSL 4 Prato             | 800 017835  |                   | 199 175955<br>(from mobiles)   |
| AUSL 5 Pisa              | 0587 273090 | AUSL 11 Empoli    | 0571 7051                      |
| AUSL 6 Leghorn (Livorno) | 800 030808  | AUSL 12 Viareggio | 800 297211                     |
| AUSL 7 Siena             | 0577 767777 |                   |                                |



[www.regione.toscana.it/iointantomivaccino](http://www.regione.toscana.it/iointantomivaccino)

**For your growing daughter  
better the vaccine today  
than HPV tomorrow.**

**It provides important  
protection.**

**Early vaccination is crucial.**