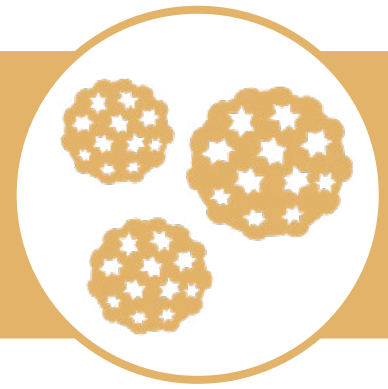


# HPV FACT SHEET



## ABOUT

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus which can affect people of all genders.

Around four in five Australians will get HPV at some point in their lives.

HPV is named by the warts (papillomas) some HPV types can cause.

Some other HPV types can lead to cancer, such as cervical cancer and cancers of the genital area, anus, mouth and throat.

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Most HPV infections cause no symptoms and are cleared naturally from the body in one to two years.

Low risk genital HPV types can cause genital warts. Genital warts do not cause cancer.

High risk types have a higher risk of significant cell changes which can progress to cancer if not discovered and treated.

HPV related cancers can take up to ten years to develop.

**If you have any concerns, contact your GP or HCP.**

## HOW IT SPREADS

HPV is spread by skin to skin contact via tiny breaks in the skin. Genital HPV is spread through intimate genital contact.

You can be exposed to HPV as soon as you become sexually active even with just one partner.

People with HPV infection may not realise they have it and can continue spreading it to others.

People with multiple sexual partners are at increased risk of developing HPV.

## PREVENTION & TREATMENT

The best way to prevent cervical cancer is to have the HPV vaccine at 12–13 years of age.

People should undergo regular cervical screenings from 18 years of age, or two years after first sexual activity whichever comes later.

Cervical screenings can detect abnormal cells before they become cancerous so that they can be treated.

Condoms offer some, but not complete, protection against HPV as they do not cover all parts of the genital area.

Immunisation against HPV is safe and effective.

Treatments are available for genital warts and for abnormal cells of the cervix.

**For further information on available HPV-specific preventative treatment options, contact your GP or HCP.**