Human Papillomavirus

It is also called

• HPV
or
• the wart virus
New words

There may be words in this factsheet

• that are new to you and

• you may **not** know what they mean

or

• you may be unsure what they mean.

• We will make them **blue** the first time we use them.

Read about them in the

Family Planning Victoria Fact Sheet

**New Words to Know.**
What is HPV?

HPV is a virus.

There are lots of different types of viruses.

A virus can make you sick.

Some types change the cells in the cervix.

Some types change the cells on your skin.

This may show as a wart or lump on your skin.
Warts may grow

- in your mouth

- around your
  - vulva
  - penis
  - anus

or

- the top of your leg.
How can I get HPV?

Your mouth or skin needs to touch someone who has HPV.

It can be when you touch your mouth or skin on their

- mouth
- anus
- penis
  or
- vulva.
How can I tell if I have HPV?

It is hard to tell if you have it.

Most people do **not** feel sick.

Only some people get warts from HPV on their skin.
I think I have HPV. What do I do?

Talk to your doctor or nurse.

They may need to look at your

- mouth
- anus
- penis
  or
- vulva.

The doctor or nurse can give you medicine. It can help get rid of the warts on your skin.
For people with a cervix

You may need to do a test called a **cervical screen**.
This used to be called a **pap smear**.
The doctor or nurse will do the screen.
Talk to your doctor or nurse about what they do.

How long will I have **HPV**?

It can take a long time to go away.
Sometimes it
- can take many years to go away
- does **not** ever go away.

Talk to your doctor or nurse.
How can I be safer from HPV?

Always use a

- condom
  
or

- dental dam.

Read about **Condoms** in the Family Planning Victoria Fact Sheets

- **Contraception**
- **Contraceptive Options. What can I choose?**
Use a condom when you put your penis in

- a mouth
- a vagina
- an anus.

Use a dental dam when there is a mouth on

- a vulva
  or
- an anus.

Condoms and dental dams do help

**but**

**not** all the time.
All young people can have a needle.
It is to try to stop HPV.

Young people can have this needle. It is free
• when you turn 12 or 13 at school
  or
• from your doctor or nurse up to the age of 20.

Adults can also get the needle.

They may need to pay for the needle.
Any Questions?

Ask your doctor or nurse.

Ask an adult you trust.
Images

We have used images from

- CanStockphoto and CDC Gov
- Change People
- Inspired Services
- Family Planning Victoria
- Boardmaker - Mayer-Johnson
- Picto-Selector
- Spectronics
- youngwomenshealth.org

This Fact Sheet is based on the Family Planning Victoria Human Papillomavirus or HPV Fact Sheet. Date: 5/12/2017

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