



Do not forget your child's HPV vaccination!

NEW: Available free of charge between your child's 9th and 21st birthday

Dear parents,

the human papilloma virus (HPV) refers to a group of viruses that are transmitted through direct skin-to-skin or mucosal contact, including sexual contact. The virus enters the body through tiny breaks in the skin surface or mucous membranes and can cause a variety of diseases in women and men, such as genital warts and cancer in areas such as the cervix, the vagina, the penis, the vulva, the anus and the throat.

In the course of their lives, around 80% of the population become infected with HP viruses, of which there are around 150 different strains. In most cases an HPV infection heals completely and goes away within a few years. But in 10% of all infected people, a permanent infection develops, which, in the long term, can cause cell changes and cancer.

For further information about HPV, see: www.gemeinsam-gegen-hpv.at



To protect against an infection with the human papilloma virus, Austria started to recommend a vaccination in 2007, which is able to prevent cancer and other diseases caused by HPV.

The HPV vaccination is offered free of charge to all persons between their 9th and 21st birthday as part of the Austrian vaccination schedule. The sooner you get vaccinated, the better! Experts have recommended that HPV vaccination between age 9 and 12 years is ideal, because the immune response is frequently stronger in children and the antibody levels are higher. Apart from that, vaccinating children has the benefit of preventing infection before young people become sexually active. Condoms do not provide reliable protection against HPV.

The HPV vaccination is just as important for boys as it is for girls! Young men infected by human papilloma viruses are more likely to develop genital warts and certain cancers, such as cancer of the penis or anus. In addition, boys are carriers of HP viruses too.

The HPV vaccination is generally administered by school doctors or medical officers in the fourth grade of primary school as part of the school vaccination programme. Over recent years, “vaccination gaps“ have occurred in some age groups, as many important school vaccination programmes could not be carried out. Please check your child’s vaccination status and take advantage of the free HPV vaccination offered in your federal province in order to catch up on missed vaccinations as soon as possible!

In addition to the vaccinations administered at schools, every federal province offers a number of ways to take advantage of the free HPV vaccination.

For an updated overview, see the GSÖ website:

www.schulaerzte.at/hpv-impfstellen



Needless to say, it is up to you alone to decide which vaccinations your child should or should not receive. To help you make up your mind, we would like to inform you about the Austrian vaccination schedule and the recommended vaccinations.

You will find the Austrian vaccination schedule on the GSÖ and Health Ministry websites:

www.schulaerzte.at/impfplan



Please take care of yourself and your loved ones!
Take advantage of the free HPV vaccination for your child!

MR Dr. Claudia Mark

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(Gesellschaft der Schulärzt:innen Österreichs, GSÖ)