

GET YOURSELF TESTED

Testing is confidential. If you are under 18 years old, you can consent to be checked and treated for STIs.

HPV

- Warts may grow on or around the genital area (penis, scrotum, vagina, vulva), the anus, or mouth. They can also grow inside the body where they are hard to see.
- Usually are painless, but if the warts are injured, they may become sore when touched.

Why Does It Matter?

- Certain types of HPV can lead to cervical cancer in females, or cancer of the penis in males. Some types of HPV may also lead to oral or anal cancer.
- In some cases, warts can become quite large and cause discomfort.
- A small percentage of pregnant people with genital warts can pass the virus to the baby during birth.

Partners

Because symptoms of HPV can take a long time to show up, if at all, it's hard to know when a person first got it.

- If you have genital warts, tell your partner(s) so they can be checked by a health care provider, and treated if they have them.
- You shouldn't have oral, vaginal, or anal sex until the warts are gone. Condoms may not fully cover parts of the skin with warts. Once the warts are gone, the

virus will still be in your body and you may still pass it during sex.

- Talk with your provider about when it's safe to have sex after getting treatment.
- It's important to talk with your partner(s) about any sexually transmitted infections (STIs) you may have.

To Learn More

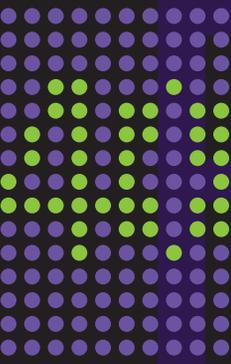
Contact a health care provider or your local STI clinic.

To learn more about STIs, or to find your local STI clinic, visit www.health.ny.gov/STD.

You can find other STI testing locations at <https://gettested.cdc.gov>.



Department
of Health



Over 40 types of HPV can infect the genital area, mouth, or throat.



HPV can be passed from one person to another, even when there are no symptoms.



The HPV vaccine can protect people from getting genital warts and cancers caused by HPV.

What Is HPV?

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a virus that can be spread through vaginal, anal, or oral sex. There are more than 150 types of HPV. Most of the time HPV goes away on its own and doesn't cause any health problems. But when it doesn't go away, there are some types of HPV that can cause genital warts. Others can cause certain types of cancer. Having an infection with a cancer-causing type of HPV does not mean you will always get cancer. Visit www.health.ny.gov/hpv for information on the HPV vaccine.

How Can I Prevent HPV?

- **Vaccination:** The HPV vaccine is safe and it works. It can protect people from getting genital warts and cancers caused by HPV. It is recommended for males and females and is routinely given at 11 or 12 years of age, but it may be given beginning at age 9 years through age 26 years.
- The HPV vaccine is given in two or three shots over 6 to 12 months. It is important to get all the doses. Most people will only need 2 shots if they start them before they are 15 years old. Talk to a health care provider about protecting yourself against HPV.
- Even if you've had HPV infection before, the vaccine can still protect you against other common types

of HPV. The vaccine does not cure genital warts or types of cancer that are caused by HPV.

- If you are under 18 years old, you do not need your parent's consent to get the HPV vaccine in New York State.
- Not having sex is the only sure way to avoid infection.
- **Use a Condom:** Using a latex or polyurethane condom every time you have oral, vaginal, or anal sex can lower your chance of getting HPV. They also help prevent the spread of other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- **Use a dental dam:** A dental dam is a thin square of latex. It can be placed over the vagina or anus during oral sex to protect you from STIs.

What If I Have HPV?

- **Get Tested:** It's important to talk with your provider about any concerns you have, and to discuss tests that are available to screen for HPV. A vaginal pap test can be used to screen for abnormal cells on the cervix caused by HPV. When they are found early, there is treatment to help stop them from turning into cancer. Your provider may also want to test other sites on your body for HPV, such as the anus or throat. When they are found early, there is treatment to help stop them from turning into cancer.

- **Get Treated:** While there is no cure for HPV, most people's immune system will get rid of the infection within a couple of years. For others, there are treatment options for the problems that HPV can cause.
- Some people get genital warts caused by HPV. If you have genital warts, a health care provider may prescribe medicine that you use at home, like a cream. Other treatments are done at a medical office.
- You should **never** try to remove a wart yourself. This can cause infection, scars, and other permanent damage.
- Genital warts sometimes come back, even after treatment.

Signs & Symptoms

Most people with HPV have no signs or symptoms of infection. When someone does have signs of infection, warts may appear several weeks or months after they are exposed, but it may take longer.

Genital warts:

- Usually begin as a small bump or group of bumps that may grow larger.
- May be small or large, raised or flat, or have a shape like a cauliflower.