

Boots HPV Vaccination Service – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Which vaccine is used for the Boots HPV Vaccination Service?

The Boots HPV Vaccination Service uses a vaccine called Gardasil 9.

How many doses of the vaccine do I need?

One dose is recommended for those aged under 25, two doses for those aged 25 and over, and three doses for those who are HIV positive or who have a weakened immune system. If preferred, the customer can choose to increase the number of doses they receive, up to a maximum of three doses.

How is the vaccination given?

The vaccine is administered by intramuscular injection into the deltoid muscle of the upper arm. It is advisable for you to wear a short-sleeved top or loose-fitting clothing for your appointment.

How effective is the vaccination?

Our service offers protection against 9 HPV types (types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58), and so helps protect against:

- Cancer of the cervix, vagina and vulva
- Genital warts
- Anal cancer

The service offers protection against the virus types responsible for 90% of cervical cancers, 90-95% of HPV-related anal cancer, 90% of genital warts, 85-90% of HPV-related vulval cancers and 80-85% of HPV-related vaginal cancers. For more information visit [HPV vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Does the vaccine have any side effects?

Like all vaccines, Gardasil 9 can sometimes cause side effects, although not everyone gets them. The most common side effects include pain, redness or swelling at the injection site. Side effects also include headache, dizziness, fever and nausea. Some of these may temporarily affect the ability to drive or operate machinery. Following the vaccination, if you're in any doubt about your health or your child's, trust your instincts and seek medical advice.

Is it a live vaccine?

No, Gardasil 9 is an inactivated vaccine.

Does the vaccine contain egg?

No, the vaccine does not contain egg.

Is the vaccine suitable for vegetarians or vegans?

Animal-derived and bovine products or by-products are raw materials used in the manufacturing process. They are not expected to be present in the vaccine, however the manufacturer cannot confirm that trace amounts are not present.

Is the vaccine suitable to have whilst pregnant or breastfeeding?

The Boots HPV Vaccination Service isn't suitable for pregnant or breastfeeding women

Can I have the vaccine at the same time as other vaccinations?

Gardasil 9 vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines

Can I have the vaccine if I take certain medicines or have a health condition?

As part of the consultation, we'll ask some questions about your medical history so that we can check that the service is suitable for you.

Can I get the vaccination on the NHS?

Immunisation against HPV is provided as part of the NHS adolescent vaccination programme and is routinely offered to adolescents aged 12 and 13. Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men may also be eligible for free vaccination on the NHS, up to and including age 45 years (available at sexual health and/or HIV clinics).

Who is the Boots HPV Vaccination Service suitable for?

The service is suitable for anyone aged 12-45. The service is not suitable for anyone who is pregnant, or anyone who has had an allergic reaction to any previous vaccination. This is not a complete list, and the healthcare professional will check suitability during the consultation.

What if I had my first dose with a different provider?

If you, or your child, had had a first dose of the HPV vaccine at a different provider and you need further doses to complete the course based on your age, medical history or circumstances, you can complete the course at Boots, providing you meet all the eligibility criteria for the Boots service.

I've booked an appointment online. How do I change it?

You can change or cancel your appointment by going to My Orders in your account [here](#).

I've paid online but I no longer want the vaccination. Can I get a refund?

Yes, if you haven't yet had the appointment, you can cancel your order by going to My Orders in your account [here](#). This will refund the payment to your original payment method. Please allow up to 14 days for the refund to appear on your account.