HPV vaccine: 4 things you need to know

1. The HPV vaccine prevents several types of cancer.
   The HPV vaccine protects against the types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers and some cancers of the anus, mouth and throat, penis, vagina, and vulva.
   The vaccine also protects against the types of HPV that cause most genital warts.

2. The HPV vaccine is given at a young age for two reasons:
   1. To protect children before they are ever exposed to the virus.
   2. Preteens have a better immune response to the vaccine than older teens.

3. The HPV vaccine is very safe.
   Vaccines are approved for use in Canada only if they meet very strict standards for safety and effectiveness.
   Over hundreds of millions of doses of the HPV vaccine have been given safely worldwide.

4. The HPV vaccine works very well.
   A 2019 study showed that the HPV vaccine has cut pre-cervical cancer rates in B.C. by more than half.
   Research has also shown that fewer teens are getting genital warts since HPV vaccines have been in use.

Did you know? 75% of sexually active people will get HPV at some point in their lives.