

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

# Are there are vaccines against STIs?

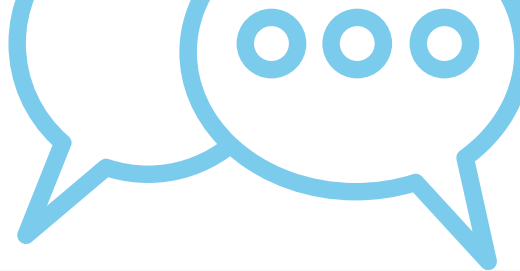
KEY WORDS

prevention | vaccine | public health | sexually transmitted infections



Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can be a burden for both the people affected and the larger community, but preventive measures such as vaccines offer an effective and powerful tool for reducing their occurrence. Human papillomavirus (HPV), a common STI, is a notable example of an infection made preventable thanks to vaccination.

The **HPV vaccine** has been a groundbreaking development when it comes to STI prevention. Given in multiple doses to young men and women starting from the age of 9, this vaccine protects against several strains of HPV known to cause various cancers, including cervical cancer. You may have seen some vaccination campaigns primarily focused on teenagers, as getting vaccinated early provides immunity before exposure to the virus. If you'd like to learn more about the availability of the HPV vaccine, we have an infographic about that for you here.

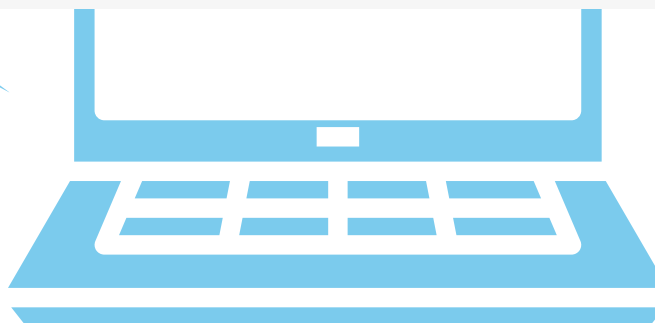


Vaccines also exist to prevent the spread of the STIs **Hepatitis A and B**, which cause extreme inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis A is commonly passed through sexual contact, while Hepatitis B is passed through contact with blood and body fluids which may occur during sex.

Efforts are underway to **develop vaccines against other common STIs**. For instance, research today is aimed at creating vaccines against herpes simplex virus (HSV) and chlamydia.

### **Why vaccines matter**

Vaccination against STIs not only shields people from potential health issues but also helps maintain the overall well-being of entire communities. This is because vaccines **reduce the spread of STIs**, and therefore minimise their burden on healthcare systems and avoid large medical fees.



However, challenges exist today when it comes to achieving widespread vaccination coverage. Due to **misinformation** about vaccines (such as myths that the HPV vaccine causes infertility) and a lack of access to these vaccines, vaccination programmes continue to overcome many hurdles.

It's important to educate ourselves on the importance of vaccination in order to stay healthy and prevent sexual health-related issues.



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