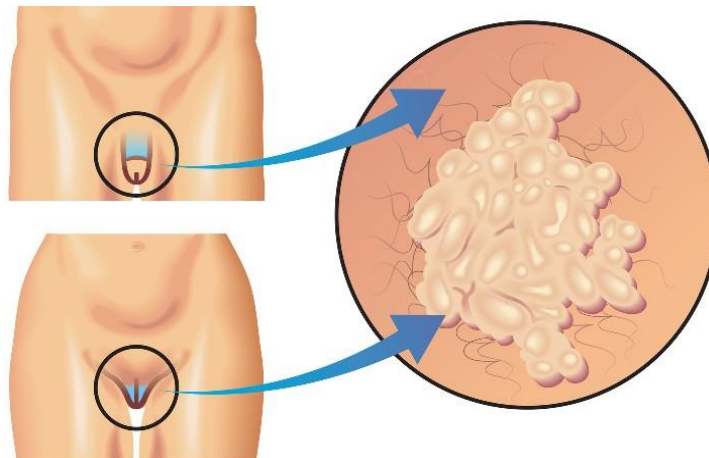


EASY ENGLISH

Human Papillomavirus

It is also called

- HPV
- or
- the wart virus



Care
Education
Advocacy



The things in this factsheet are for lots of different people.



For information just about



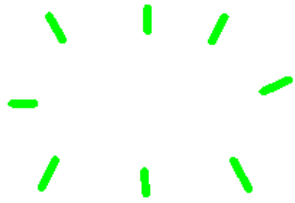
- you
- your needs



talk to a



- Doctor or Nurse

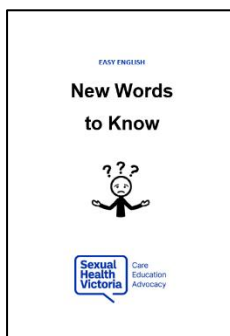


New words

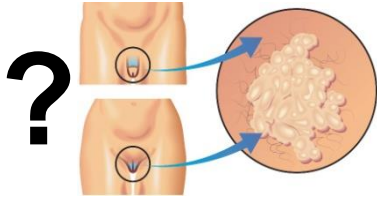


There may be words in this factsheet

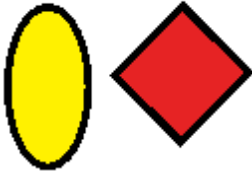
- that are new to you and
- you may **not** know what they mean
- or
- you may be unsure what they mean.
- We will make them **blue** the first time we
- use them.



Read about them in the
Sexual Health Victoria Fact Sheet
New Words to Know.



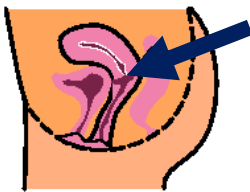
What is HPV?



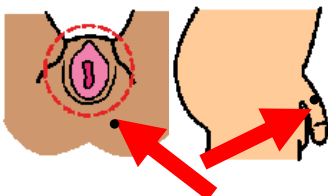
HPV is a **virus**.

There are lots of different types of viruses.

A virus can make you sick.



Some types change the cells in the **cervix**.



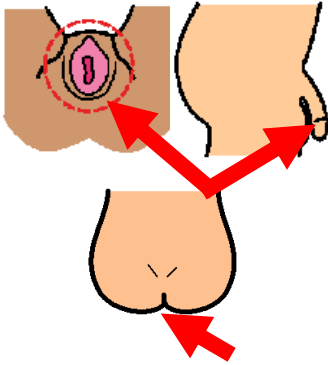
Some types change the cells on your skin.

This may show as a wart or lump on your skin.



Warts can grow

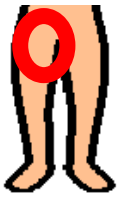
- in your mouth



- around your

- vulva
- penis
- anus

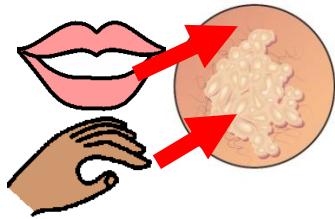
or



- at the top of your leg.

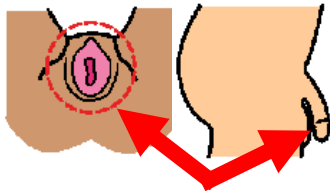
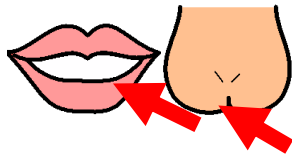
?

How can I get HPV?



Your mouth, private parts or skin needs to touch someone who has HPV.

It can be when you touch **your** mouth, private parts or skin on **their**



- mouth
- anus
- penis
- or
- vulva.



How can I tell if I have HPV?



It is hard to tell if you have it.

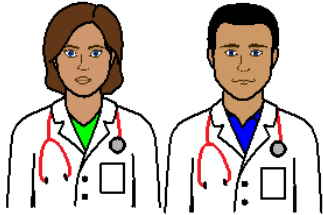
Most people do **not** feel sick.



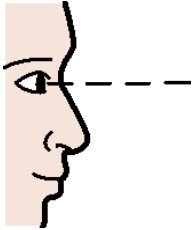
Only some people get warts from HPV on
their skin.



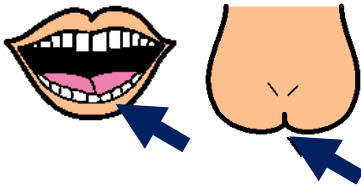
I think I have HPV. What do I do?



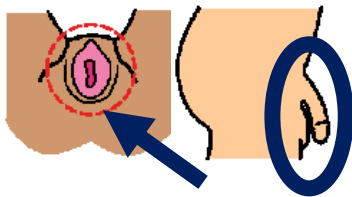
Talk to your doctor or nurse.



They may need to look at **your**



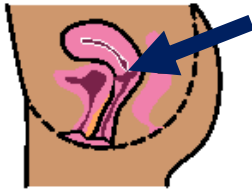
- mouth
- anus



- penis
- or
- vulva.



The doctor or nurse can give you medicine.
It can help get rid of the warts on your skin.



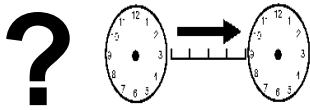
For people with a cervix

You may need to do a test called a **cervical screen**.

This used to be called a **pap smear**.

The doctor or nurse will do the screen.

Talk to your doctor or nurse about what they do.

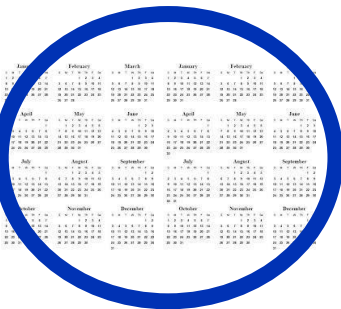


How long will I have

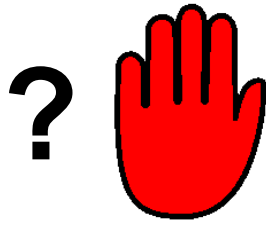
HPV?

As long as it takes for your immune system to kill it.

Your immune system is the body's way of fighting off sickness.



Talk to your doctor or nurse.



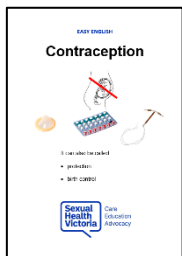
How can I be safer from HPV?



Always use a

- condom
- or
- dental dam.

Read about **Condoms** in the Sexual Health Victoria Fact Sheets



- [Contraception](#)
- [Contraceptive Options. What can I choose?](#)



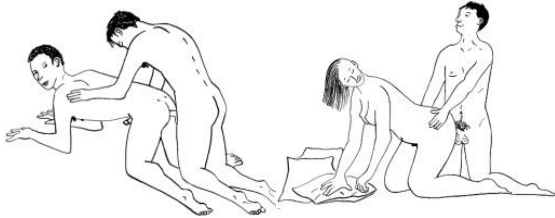
Use a condom when you put your penis in



- a mouth



- a vagina



- an anus.

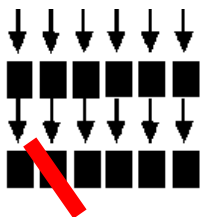
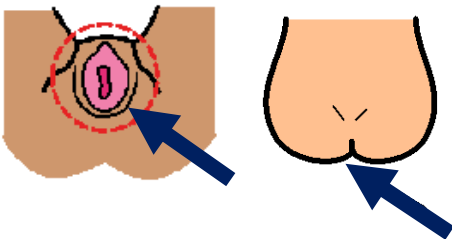


Use a dental dam when there is a mouth on

- a vulva

or

- anus.



Condoms and dental dams do help

but

not all the time.



All young people can have a needle.
It is to try to stop HPV.



Young people can have this needle. It is free

- when you turn 12 or 13 at school
- or
- from your doctor or nurse up to the age of **25**.



Adults can also get the needle.



They may need to pay for the needle.



Want more information?



Ask your doctor or nurse.



Ask an adult you trust.

Images

We have used images from



- CanStockphoto and CDC Gov
- Change People
- Inspired Services
- Sexual Health Victoria
- Boardmaker - Mayer-Johnson
- Picto-Selector
- Spectronics

This Fact Sheet is based on the Sexual Health Victoria (HPV) Human Papillomavirus Fact Sheet. Updated December 2023.



Reviewed by Sexual Health Victoria

December 2023.

Original Easy English written by Access Easy

English. May 2018.

