# WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact us to find out how to get vaccinated to protect your health.



# **CONTACT US**



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## SCREENING FOR CERVICAL CANCER

Every person resident and assisted by AUSL of Bologna between 25 and 64 years of age can have free screening exams to prevent or diagnose the alterations of the cervical cells caused by the HPV virus.

Find out more on the website ausl.bologna.it/cit/scr or using this QR code.















## What is Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)?

# It is a very widespread virus: 8 out of 10 people have an HPV infection in their lifetime.

There are over 120 types, of which more than 40 can cause infections of the female and male genital tract.

Generally the infection does not cause symptoms and resolves spontaneously, without the need for therapy, but some types, rarely, can cause lesions and tumors.



### How is it transmitted?

Papilloma virus is transmitted with sexual intercourse, even if not complete. It is the most common sexually transmitted infection.

Condoms can reduce the risk, but do not prevent the transmission of the virus, which can also be present in parts of the skin not protected by a condom.



### What does HPV infection involve?

Some types of HPV cause genital and anal warts, other types can cause cellular alterations of the mucous membranes (uterus, vulva, vagina, anus, penis and mouth) which, if not treated, can evolve into tumors, even after many years.

In 90% of cases it heals spontaneously. In cases where the infection evolves into disease, it is possible to use effective therapies, even if to date there are no therapies available that permanently eliminate the virus.

HPV infection is responsible for 70% of cervical cancers.

### How to prevent infection?



In addition to the use of condoms, always recommended to prevent other sexually transmitted diseases, there is an effective, safe and free vaccine for those most at risk, including sex workers.

The vaccine requires three doses over at least 6 months.

### Is the vaccine safe?



Yes, the vaccine is safe and there is no chance of it causing infection.

Millions of people around the world have been vaccinated against HPV without experiencing serious reactions.

### Is the vaccine effective?



The vaccine prevents infection of the 9 most dangerous types of HPV and protects against almost 90% of cervical cancers, around 80% of other types of related cancers and almost 100% of warts.

The vaccine cannot cure an infection that already exists.

## Where can I get the vaccine?



Vaccinations are given for free by health professionals in the vaccination clinics of the Local Health Authority.

MIT, Via Libera and Società Dolce volunteers can accompany you to the vaccination if you want.