

# Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

## **Clinical Description:**

Most human papillomavirus (HPV) infections are asymptomatic and result in no clinical disease. However, HPV can produce benign warts of the skin and mucus membranes and are associated with anogenital cancers. Nongenital warts include common skin warts, plantar warts, and flat warts. In addition, HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the US. Although the incidence of infection is high, most infections resolve spontaneously. A small proportion of infection people become persistently infected. More than 100 types of HPV have been identified. Most HPV types infect the skin and cause common warts. However, HPV is found in 99% of cervical cancers. Two types of HPV account for about 70% of cervical cancer. In addition, HPV infection is also associated with cancer of the vulva, vagina, penis, and anus, as well as cancer of the oral cavity.

## **Incubation Period:**

The incubation period is unknown but is estimated to range from three months to several years.

## **Mode of Transmission:**

HPV is transmitted by direct contact, usually sexual, with an infected person. Transmission occurs most frequently with sexual intercourse but can occur following nonpenetrative sexual activity. Nongenital warts are acquired through contact with HPV and minor trauma to the skin.

## **Period of Communicability:**

The period of communicability is unknown. The virus is most likely communicable during the acute infection and during persistent infection.

## **Exclusion/Reporting:**

HPV is not a reportable condition. There are no specific recommendations on the exclusion of children with HPV from school. State law (IC 20-34-4-3) requires schools to provide information to parents of sixth grade girls about HPV. The letter that is sent home with the girls contains a survey which the parents should fill out and return to the school. The law requires that a summary of this information be submitted to ISDH on an annual basis. The letter to parents and the survey (in English and Spanish), reporting form and other related documents and information can be found on the ISDH CHIRP Document Center (<http://bit.ly/XMIK4Y>)

## **Prevention/Care:**

Safe and effective vaccines are available to prevent some of the most common types of HPV. While not a requirement for school entry, children should receive the recommended doses of the HPV vaccines. It is recommended that all girls and boys 11 - 12 years of age begin the three dose series. The vaccine is licensed for use in males and females aged 9-26 years.

## **Outbreaks:**

According to the ISDH Communicable Disease Reporting Rule (410 IAC 1-2.3) the definition of an outbreak means cases of disease occurring in a community, region, or particular population at a rate in excess of that which is

normally expected. The local health department should be notified of suspected and/or documented cases of HPV if the number of cases is in excess of what is normally experienced in your school or occur with a common connection (same class, sports team, etc.). For additional information and recommendations regarding the preparation for, and the management of an outbreak situation in a school setting, see Appendix A, "Managing an Infectious Disease Outbreak In a School Setting."

**Other Resources:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

<http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/>

Indiana State Department of Health Quick Facts Page (found on disease/condition page):

<http://bit.ly/12IJLfd>