

# Throat Cancer from a Virus? Facts YOU should Know

## Can I get throat cancer from a virus?

**YES.** Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus with more than **100 types** (only a few can cause cancer).

### LOW-RISK HPV TYPE

Cause warts or bumps in either the:

- Mouth
- Throat
- Or genitals



**HIGH-RISK HPV TYPE**  
Cause cancer in these places:

- **Women:** throat, cervix, vagina, anus
- **Men:** throat, anus, penis



## How do I catch HPV?

HPV is passed by direct contact during sex

- Your partner must have HPV infection to catch it
- Oral, anal, or vaginal sex
- It may even be passed through open mouth kissing



**FOR ABOUT 1-2 OF EVERY 100 PEOPLE,  
THE VIRUS STAYS AND HAS A CHANCE TO CAUSE CANCER**

- Only for high-risk types
- Takes from 10-30 years or more years to get throat cancer

## Is HPV common?



- It is the most common sexually transmitted disease in America
- In most cases, the body fights off the virus

## What is HPV-related throat cancer?



**BY THROAT CANCER, WE MEAN THESE SPOTS:**

- Tonsils
- The base (the very back) of the tongue



[www.headandneck.org](http://www.headandneck.org)



[www.ahns.info](http://www.ahns.info)