Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

**CAUSE:**
Human papillomavirus. HPV types are often referred to as "low-risk" (wart-causing) or "high-risk" (cancer-causing).

**INCUBATION:**
- Genital warts – 3 weeks to 8 months.
- Cancer – can be years.

**TRANSMISSION:**
Spread through intimate skin-to-skin contact, most often during vaginal, anal, or oral sex, and deep prolonged kissing. Also, mother-to-child transmission during delivery.

**WHEN:**
Year-round.
No seasonal patterns.

**COMMUNICABILITY:**
Difficult to study but presumed during acute & persistent infection.

**SYMPTOMS:**
- Often asymptomatic.
- Genital warts, recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (RRP), [a rare condition in which warts grow in the throat], and cervical cancer precursors.
- Cancers caused by HPV include cervical, vulvar, vaginal, penial, anal, and oropharyngeal.

**REPORTING:**
HPV is not a reportable disease.

**TREATMENT:**
No treatment for virus specifically, but treatment for the problems HPV can cause; medication or surgery for warts and treatments for different types of cancers.
HPV is preventable through vaccination.

www.kdhe.ks.gov/immunize  
www.kdheks.gov/epi/index.html