

PREVENT CANCER WITH THE HPV VACCINE

The HPV vaccine prevents 6 types of cancer (1)

What is HPV?

4 in 5

adults will be infected with HPV in their lifetime. (1)

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infects the skin and mucous membranes, sometimes causing warts. Most people clear the infection on their own, but some stay infected and spread the virus through direct contact. You can be infected with HPV without showing any symptoms, so you may spread it unknowingly. HPV is linked to 33,000 cancer diagnoses in the US each year. (1)

There is no treatment for HPV, so prevention is key.



Age 9-12

2 doses spaced 6-12 months apart

Who Should get the HPV Vaccine?

Doctors recommend boys and girls get the HPV vaccine. (1)

Age 13-14

Last chance for 2 doses spaced 6-12 months apart



Age 15-26

3 doses given within 6 months



Safety and Side Effects

Common side effects that can occur after the HPV vaccine: (2)

- pain, redness, or swelling where the shot was given
- dizziness or fainting
- nausea
- headache
- fatigue
- muscle or joint pain

The HPV vaccine is made from one protein from the virus and is not infectious, meaning that it cannot cause HPV infection or cancer. (2)

The benefits of HPV vaccine far outweigh any potential risk of side effects.

DON'T WAIT TO VACCINATE!

1) American Cancer Society: <https://www.cancer.org/healthy/hpv-vaccine.html>

2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccinesafety.html>; <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccine.html>



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HPV VACCINE FAQS

1

If you have HPV, will you get cancer?

Having an HPV infection does not mean you will develop cancer, but some people do. For most people, HPV infection will go away on its own. Cancers linked to HPV infection can be prevented with vaccines and preventative screenings. (1)

2

Are there any other ways to prevent HPV infection?

HPV is spread through skin to skin contact with part of the body infected by HPV. Condoms reduce the risk of spreading HPV, but transmission can still occur. The best protection against HPV is vaccination. (1, 2)

3

Can you get HPV from the vaccine?

It is not possible to get HPV infection from the vaccine. HPV vaccine does not contain any genetic material. Infection cannot occur if there is no genetic material for the virus to replicate. (4)

4

Is the HPV vaccine linked to any severe side effects?

The HPV vaccine is **NOT** linked to serious side effects. Fainting from vaccines can occur in pre-teens and teens. This can be prevented by having your child sit or lie down for 10-15 minutes after receiving the vaccine. (4)

5

Why is the vaccine recommended for children ages 9-12?

The HPV vaccine is meant to protect your child before they are exposed to the disease. HPV vaccine is more effective when given at a younger age. Young people produce more antibodies to each dose of the vaccine. (2)

6

Will vaccinating my child against HPV make them think teen sex is ok?

Studies show that pre-teens and teens who get the HPV vaccine do not have sex earlier than those who did not get the vaccine. You can talk to your child about getting the vaccine now to protect them in the future. (2, 3)



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1) American Cancer Society <https://www.cancer.org/healthy/cancer-causes/infectious-agents/hpv/hpv-and-cancer-info.html>

2) American Academy of Pediatrics <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Vaccinating-Your-Preteen-Addressing-Common-Concerns.aspx>

3) American Academy of Pediatrics <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/How-to-Talk-to-Your-Preteen-About-HPV-Vaccine.aspx>

4) Children's Hospital of Philadelphia <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/questions-answers-about-hpv-and-vaccine>