

6 Reasons to Get Your Children Vaccinated Against HPV



1. HPV affects everyone – both men and women.

Every year, HPV infects around 13 million people, including teens. About 80% of people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime. Vaccination protects against several HPV types that cause serious and sometimes fatal cancers.



2. HPV vaccination works.

Since 2006, HPV types protected against by the vaccine have dropped by 88% among teen girls. The number of cervical precancers has also decreased.



3. HPV infection causes almost 40,000 cases of cancer each year.

High-risk HPV infections cause around 5% of all cancers worldwide:

- 75% of vaginal cancer
- 70% of vulvar cancer
- 90% of anal cancer
- 70% of head and neck cancers
- 99% of cervical cancer
- 60% of penile cancer



4. HPV vaccination is safe.

Officials approved the HPV vaccine in 2006 after strict clinical trials with tens of thousands of people. Over 135 million doses of the vaccine have been given in the United States. Research and monitoring continue to show its safety.



5. HPV vaccination is cancer prevention.

HPV infections cause several types of cancer. HPV vaccination can prevent about 90% of these cancers. Screening is available only for 1 type – cervical cancer.



6. On-time HPV vaccination is critical for long-lasting protection.

Clinical trials followed people for over 10 years after vaccination. Protection remained high with no signs of slowing or decreasing.

Experts recommend HPV vaccination at age 9. It works best when given before age 13. On-time vaccination is also important because people can get HPV before they are adults.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends 2 doses of HPV vaccine through age 14. The doses should be given 6–12 months apart. Those who start vaccination on or after age 15 should get 3 doses over 6 months. People with weak immune systems – no matter the age – should get 3 doses.

Your child can get the HPV vaccine at the same time as other routine vaccinations.

It's never too late to get vaccinated against HPV. If you are age 27–45, talk with a health care provider to see if HPV vaccination is right for you.



Want to learn more? Talk with your health care provider, your child's health care provider, or another trusted source of medical information. Visit StJude.org/Bright-Future.

HPV vaccination is cancer prevention. It offers protection today for a lifetime against HPV cancers.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov/hpv