

6 Reasons to Get Your Child Vaccinated Against HPV

1. HPV affects everyone—both males and females

HPV infections are very common. Nearly everyone will get HPV at some point in their lives. More than 42 million Americans are infected with types of HPV that are known to cause disease. About 13 million Americans, including teens, become infected each year.



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. Recent studies in other countries show it is possible to eliminate HPV cancers, beginning with cervical cancer as a public health problem.



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

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

- 99% of cervical cancer
- 91% of anal cancer
- 75% of vaginal cancer
- 69% of vulvar cancer
- 70% of oral or throat cancers
- 63% 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 500 million doses of the vaccine have been given and monitoring continues to show its safety.



5. HPV vaccination is cancer prevention

HPV infections cause several types of cancer—oral or throat, cervical, anal, vaginal, vulvar, and penile cancers. 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. HPV vaccination is routinely recommended for everyone ages 9-26.

Experts recommend on-time HPV vaccination at ages 9-12. It works best when given on-time by the 13th birthday. On-time vaccination is also important because people can get HPV before they are adults.

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends 2 HPV vaccine doses through age 14. Each dose should be given 6-12 months apart. Those who start the HPV vaccine series on or after age 15 should get 3 doses over 6 months.

No matter the age, those with weak immune systems should get 3 doses. This includes childhood cancer survivors.

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? Have a conversation with your or your child's health care provider, or another trusted, reliable source of medical information, and visit stjude.org/preventHPV.

HPV vaccination is cancer prevention. It offers protection today for a lifetime against HPV cancers. To learn more, visit stjude.org/preventHPV or email preventhpv@stjude.org.

Reference

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