

DID YOU KNOW?

HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) is a virus that can cause cancer of the mouth, throat, cervix, vagina, anus, and penis. It also causes genital warts.

There is a vaccine that can protect people from 9 types of HPV.



The best time to vaccinate is when boys and girls are 11 to 12 years old.

How do you get HPV?

HPV is spread by direct contact during sexual activity.

Is HPV common?

Yes. About half of us get HPV at some point in our lives.

Does everyone with HPV get cancer?

No. Most people fight off the virus, but some people cannot. Doctors cannot tell who will be able to fight off the virus. This is why getting the vaccine is so important.

How great is the risk of cancer if my child gets the virus?

Scientists cannot predict which people with HPV will get cancer, but it is estimated that HPV vaccination can prevent 28,500 new cancers per year.

Should my children get the vaccine if they are not sexually active?

Yes, because it will protect them for the future.

Can children wait to get the vaccine when they are older?

The vaccine works best in young people. Age 11 to 12 is the best time to get the first dose, with a second dose 6 to 12 months later. They can start as early as age 9.

The vaccine is less effective if given after age 15. Three doses are needed. However, your family members can get the vaccine up to age 45.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. Thousands of doses have been given without serious side effects. Minor side effects are pain at the vaccine site, fever, dizziness, and nausea.

Does health insurance cover the HPV vaccine?

Many health insurance plans cover the vaccine. If you don't have health insurance or your plan doesn't cover the vaccine, there is a Federal program called Vaccines for Children (VFC).

It covers people with no or limited insurance, Medicaid-eligible people, American Indians, and native Alaskans.

For current information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about HPV Vaccine Recommendations, Contraindications, and Safety Information, see:
cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hpv/hcp/recommendations.html

Or scan this QR code:



For information about the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program covering Uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, and Native Alaskans, see:
cdc.gov/Features/VFCprogram/

Or scan this QR code:



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A CANCER VACCINE FOR YOUR FAMILY



Created by youth from the Unity Neighborhood Center

Protect Your Family Against HPV-Induced Cancers