

HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention

Facts about Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S.
- HPV is a virus.
- Nearly all sexually active people will get human papillomavirus (HPV) at some time in their lives.
- Human papillomavirus can cause cancer.
- Although most HPV infections go away on their own without causing problems, HPV can cause males to develop genital warts, or some kinds of cancer. Each year, more than 9000 cases of HPV-related cancers occur in males including penile, anal, and oropharyngeal (throat) cancers.



- Males can get HPV from a person who is infected with HPV. It can spread from one person to another person through anal, vaginal, or oral sex, or through other close skin-to-skin touching during sexual activity. Sexual intercourse is not necessary for infection.
- HPV can be spread even when an infected person has no visible signs or symptoms.

Questions about HPV or the HPV Vaccine?

Get information from a reliable source.
Talk with your doctor or nurse practitioner.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
“Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Questions and Answers”
www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/questions-answers.html

“HPV Vaccine for Preteens and Teens”
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/teen/hpv-basics-color.pdf

“HPV and Men Fact Sheet”
www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/stdfact-hpv-and-men.htm

Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
A Look at Each Vaccine: Human Papillomavirus
www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/human-papillomavirus

Immunization Action Coalition
“Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Questions and Answers; information about the disease and vaccines”
www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4207.pdf

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Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Boys and Young Men



What you need to know...

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Boys and Young Men

What is HPV Vaccine?

There is one HPV vaccine available in the U.S. It is called Gardasil®. Gardasil® HPV vaccine protects against 9 types of HPV. Two of the strains in Gardasil® are responsible for 90% of genital warts.

HPV vaccine does not cause HPV infection or cancer. HPV vaccine is made using one protein from each of the types of the virus included in the vaccine and is not infectious, meaning that HPV vaccine can not cause HPV infection or cancer.

HPV Vaccine Helps Prevent:

- Warts in the genital area – penis, testicles, groin, thighs, in and around the anus
- Cancers in the genital area and in the throat
- Infecting others with HPV. Males infected with HPV can infect females. Some females infected with HPV will develop cervical cancer as a result of their infection.

How Many Doses of HPV Vaccine are Needed?

Starting HPV vaccination *before* turning 15 years old?

- 2 doses HPV vaccine needed. The second dose should be given 6-12 months after the first dose.

Starting HPV vaccination *on or after* the 15th birthday?

- 3 doses HPV vaccine needed. The second dose should be given 1-2 months after the first dose, and the third dose should be given six months after the first dose.



Recommendations for HPV Vaccination for Males

In the United States, the HPV vaccine is recommended for:

- All males ages 11 or 12 years (or as young as 9 years).
- Older males through age 21 years if they did not get vaccinated when they were younger.
- Gay, bisexual, and other males who have sex with males - through age 26 years if they did not get vaccinated when they were younger.
- Males with HIV or weakened immune systems through age 26 years, if they did not get vaccinated when they were younger.

HPV vaccine recommendations are based on age, not sexual experience. Even if someone has already had sex, they should still get the HPV vaccine. A person's first HPV infection usually happens during one of the first few sexual experiences. However, a person might not be exposed to all of the HPV types that are covered by HPV vaccine.

Can Genital HPV Infections be Treated? How is HPV Infection Treated?

There is no cure for HPV infection. Treatments for HPV are directed at the symptoms such as removing warts or treating cancers. Genital warts can be treated with medications or surgically removed. However, genital warts can come back, even after treatment.

Does Using Condoms Prevent HPV?

Correct and consistent condom use lowers the chance of giving or getting genital HPV but is not fully protective. HPV can infect areas not covered by a condom.

Can I get Tested for HPV?

No, there is currently no approved test for HPV in males.

Routine screening for HPV or HPV-related disease before there are signs or symptoms is not recommended in males.

Why is HPV Vaccine Recommended at 11 or 12 Years of Age?

The vaccine works best (greatest immune response) when given to people at the recommended ages of 11-12 years old.

- Like all vaccines, a person needs to complete the HPV vaccine series before exposure to the virus in order for it to provide maximum protection. Do not wait to vaccinate until teens reach puberty or start having sex.
- The HPV vaccine offers the greatest health benefits for those who receive all recommended doses before any type of sexual activity. Tweens and teens may not plan ahead about sex or tell their parents they are active. Completing the HPV series before sexual activity helps prevent infection with the most common causes of anal and genital warts, and some cancers.

