



# HPV Vaccination Tips

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# Welcome! We will start soon.....



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# Agenda



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1. Introductions
2. What is HPV?
3. HPV and cancer
4. HPV statistics
5. Vaccine effectiveness
6. Coverage
7. Recommendations
8. Dental perspective
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10. Tips for improving your vaccination rate

# Welcome



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# What is HPV?



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HPV (human papillomavirus) is a common virus spread by intimate skin-to-skin contact.

- HPV is a very common family of viruses that infect epithelial tissue of males and females. More than 150 HPV types have been identified.
- Most HPV types infect cutaneous epithelial cells and cause common warts, such as those that occur on the hands and feet. Approximately 40 HPV types can infect mucosal epithelial cells, such as those on the genitals, mouth, and throat.
- Although most HPV infections are asymptomatic and resolve spontaneously or become undetectable, some HPV infections can persist and lead to cancer.

Persistent infections with high-risk (oncogenic) HPV types can cause:

- Cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers in women
- Penile cancers in men
- Oropharyngeal and anal cancers in both men and women



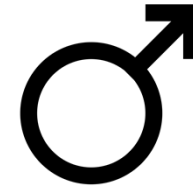
# HPV Statistics in the United States



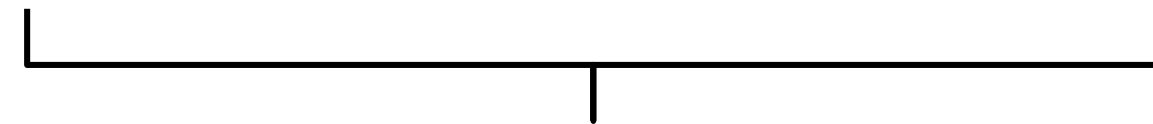
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- About 12,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer every year <sup>1</sup>
- 4,000+ women die every year from cervical cancer <sup>1</sup>



- Around 10,100 men are diagnosed with oropharyngeal cancer caused by HPV infection each year <sup>1</sup>
- HPV is found in about half of all penile cancers <sup>2</sup>



An estimated 32,500 men and women are diagnosed with a cancer caused by HPV infection every year <sup>1</sup>

# Vaccine effectiveness



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More than 100 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been given since it was introduced in 2006.





# HPV vaccination is cancer prevention



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HPV infections and cervical precancers have dropped significantly since the vaccine has been in use.

- Among **teen girls**, infections with HPV types that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts have dropped 71 percent.<sup>3</sup>
- Among **young adult women**, infections with HPV types that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts have dropped 61 percent.<sup>3</sup>
- Among vaccinated women, the percentage of cervical precancers caused by HPV has dropped by 40 percent.<sup>3</sup>

HPV vaccination could prevent more than 90% of HPV cancers from ever developing.<sup>3</sup>

# Coverage



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The HPV vaccination is covered by Blue Cross when administered by a healthcare professional, such as a physician, nurse, or pharmacist.



## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Recommends the HPV vaccination for girls and boys at ages 11 or 12 years to protect against cancers caused by HPV infections. The vaccine mounts stronger immunity when given at a younger age.

## American Dental Association (ADA)

Encourages dentists to start this conversation on the importance of this vaccine with caregivers once their child turns 9.

## Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Supports the recommendation to vaccinate at age 9, an earlier age will allow for two doses of the vaccine instead of three.

# The dental perspective



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- Cancers of the throat and mouth have continued to increase over the last 10 years. With 70-80 percent of these cancers being related to HPV, the American Dental Association (ADA) encourages dentists to promote administration of the HPV vaccine.
- The ADA Council on Scientific Affairs suggests that a recommendation from a trusted health care professional is the single best predictor of whether a young person receives the vaccine.
- Because you perform oral cancer screenings on your patients, you can play an important role in educating your patients and their caregivers on how to reduce their risk of oral and nasopharyngeal cancer by getting the HPV vaccine. You can help play a deciding role if your patient gets the vaccine.



# Dental recommendation



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"I talk to the parents of my younger patients about the importance of the HPV vaccine in preventing oropharyngeal cancer," says Janis Moriarty, D.M.D.

Dr. Moriarty, who has a general dentistry practice in Winchester and is President of the Massachusetts Dental Society, notes that "We are in the health profession, and reinforcing the importance of this vaccine can help save lives. Many of my colleagues, with support from the American Dental Association, are also passing on this message."



HPV is the main cause of cervical and anal cancers. Both can be detected through Pap smear testing.

- The Pap smear test looks for abnormal cell changes on the cervix or anus that might become cancerous if they are not treated appropriately.
  - Regular pap smear screening is recommended to begin at age 21.
  - Anal pap smear screening is recommended for high risk populations, based on co-infection with other viruses or specific sexual practices.
- HPV testing is performed on abnormal test results to determine if the cell changes are related to HPV infection.

# Tips for improving your vaccination rate



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## What can you can do with your patients?

- A **clinical recommendation** is the number one reason parents choose to vaccinate.
- Include the vaccine with the TDAP and meningococcal vaccines.
- Bundle your vaccine recommendations (as part of routine care).
- Talk openly with your patients about the vaccine:
  - Discuss patient's thoughts about vaccine to understand hesitancies
  - Use personal examples

“I understand you're concerned about the safety of the vaccine; however, it has been proven effective as cancer prevention for over the last 10 years.”

“I strongly recommend the HPV vaccine to help keep you healthy and reduce the risk of more serious cancers.”



# Questions



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# References



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1. “HPV Vaccine Information for Clinicians.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2018.
2. “Risk Factors for Penile Cancer.” American Cancer Society, 2018, [www.cancer.org/cancer/penile-cancer/causes-risks-prevention/risk-factors.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/penile-cancer/causes-risks-prevention/risk-factors.html).
3. “HPV Vaccine Is Safe and Effective.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccinesafety.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccinesafety.html).