

Protect Your Child's Health—Today and in the Future

The HPV vaccine provides safe and effective protection from HPV and related cancers.

What is HPV?

HPV, or human papillomavirus, is a common infection that can cause cancer later in life. Nearly 80 million Americans are currently infected with some type of HPV, and about 14 million become infected each year.¹ Some types of HPV can affect the mouth and throat, increasing the likelihood of the development of oral and oropharyngeal cancers.

Benefits of the Vaccine

The HPV vaccine:

- Prevents HPV infection
- Protects against HPV-related cancers and diseases
- Is safe, effective, and long-lasting

The vaccine is covered by our health plans.

HPV Vaccination Is Cancer Prevention

Almost 34,000 men and women in the U.S. are diagnosed with HPV-related cancers each year.² The HPV vaccine is the only vaccine available today to help prevent cancer.

Who should get vaccinated?

The American Dental Association strongly recommends the administration of the HPV vaccine to reduce the risk of oral HPV infections and the cancers they can cause. The CDC recommends the HPV vaccine for all children. The vaccine series can be given as early as age 9 and should be completed by their 13th birthday.³

Research shows that younger people have a better immune response to the vaccine, and are less likely to have already been exposed to HPV.⁴ If you wait until your child is older, they may need three doses instead of two.

Where can I get the vaccine?

Your child's pediatrician can administer the vaccine or help you find a provider who can. The vaccine can also be administered at your local retail pharmacy.

HPV Myths: Know the Facts

Myth: It only affects women.

Fact: Both men and women can get the virus. Women are at higher risk of HPV-related cancers, but HPV in men can lead to cancers of the penis, anus, and back of the throat.⁵

Myth: The vaccine isn't safe.

Fact: The HPV vaccine has been tested in thousands of people and continues to be monitored for safety. While it may result in minor side effects, studies have shown the vaccine to be safe and effective, and does not cause HPV infection, cancer, or fertility problems.⁶

Myth: The vaccine encourages sexual activity.

Fact: Studies show that getting the vaccine doesn't make those who receive it more likely to start having sex.⁷

Keep your child healthy.

Talk to your child's doctor about getting your child vaccinated.

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1. "About HPV. | Human Papillomavirus (HPV)." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 29, 2019.
<https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/about-hpv.html>.
 2. "Reasons to Get Vaccinated. | Human Papillomavirus (HPV)." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. March 26, 2019.
<https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccine/six-reasons.html>.
 3. "Vaccinating Boys and Girls. | Human Papillomavirus (HPV)." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. August 23, 2018.
<https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccine.html>.
 4. "HPV Vaccines." American Cancer Society. July 13, 2016.
<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/infectious-agents/hpv/hpv-vaccines.html>.
 5. "HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention for Boys, Too!" Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. December 17, 2018.
<https://www.cdc.gov/features/hpvpvaccineboys/index.html>.
 6. "HPV Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness. | Human Papillomavirus (HPV)." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 29, 2019.
<https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccinesafety.html>.
 7. "HPV Vaccines." American Sexual Health Association.
<http://www.ashsexualhealth.org/stdsstis/hpv/hpv-vaccines/>.

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ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia con el idioma. Llame al número de Servicio al Cliente que figura en su tarjeta de identificación (TTY: **711**).

ATENÇÃO: Se fala português, são-lhe disponibilizados gratuitamente serviços de assistência de idiomas. Telefone para os Serviços aos Membros, através do número no seu cartão ID (TTY: **711**).