Protect Against
HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)
Who should get the HPV vaccine?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is given as three shots. They are spaced several months apart. It is important that you schedule to get your child between the ages of 11 and 13 vaccinated against HPV before their 13th birthday.

All three shots are needed for full protection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends HPV vaccinations be given:

- To girls and boys at age 11 or 12.
- To teen girls and women through age 26 who did not get all three vaccines at an earlier age.
- To teen boys and men through age 21 who did not get vaccines at an earlier age.
- To men through age 26 after checking with their doctor.
- To men through age 26 who have a compromised immune system.
Prevent Serious Health Problems

Your body can fight many infections. This includes many types of HPV. But without treatment, some types of HPV can cause more serious health problems including:

- Cervical cancer in females.
- Other serious cancers affecting the throat, genitals and anal areas in females and males.

Each year, 12,000 women in the U.S. will get cervical cancer. Of those, 4,000 will die from it. Most of these cases are a result of HPV. More than 13,000 women and men will get other cancers caused by HPV.

Many cases of HPV can be prevented. Pre-teens, teenagers, and young adults can be vaccinated to prevent the most common forms of HPV. This includes those which most often cause more serious health problems.

Who can get HPV?

There are more than 40 types of HPV. It is spread through most forms of sexual contact. A person can get more than one type of HPV. Many people with HPV do not even know they have it until they have a more serious health problem. HPV can be passed to a partner even if the infected person has no signs or symptoms.
Types of Vaccines

The HPV vaccine protects from some of the most common types of HPV. This includes those which cause most cervical cancers, genital warts and other cancers. They will not cure an HPV infection you already have. But they can keep you from getting other types of HPV.

For females, the vaccines Gardasil® and Cervarix® protect against HPV infections that cause most cervical cancers. Gardasil also protects against HPV infections that cause genital warts and certain forms of genital and anal cancer.

Gardasil protects males against several HPV infections. This includes those that cause most genital warts and anal cancers.

Better Safe Than Sorry

Half of all sexually active women and men in the U.S. will get HPV. It is the most common sexually transmitted infection. It can cause health problems which can be serious.

The HPV vaccine protects against the most common types of HPV and cervical cancer. It does not protect against other sexually transmitted infections. Women who get the vaccine should still have routine Pap tests for cervical cancer.

HPV vaccines provide the best protection when given before someone is sexually active, but can still be beneficial even if they ARE sexually active. Young adults and parents of pre-teens and teenagers should talk with a health care provider about HPV vaccines. It’s never too early to start the conversation!
A Typical Vaccine Schedule

Your pre-teen will need to complete all three doses within a six-month time period of the HPV vaccine in order for the vaccine to be effective and protect them against HPV, cervical cancer, and other serious diseases and illnesses.

- First dose—as soon as possible.
- Second dose—two months after first dose.
- Third dose—six months after the first dose.
This information is not intended as a replacement for medical advice. Please speak with your doctor before making changes to your current lifestyle.

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