

HPV VACCINE: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

As parents, you do everything you can to protect your children's health now and for the future. Did you know that you can protect them from several types of cancer with HPV vaccination?

What is human papillomavirus (HPV)?

Human papillomavirus (pap-ah-LO-mah -VYE-rus), or HPV, is a group of common viruses that affect both boys and girls. HPV can cause anal and mouth/throat cancers. It can also cause cancer in the cervix, vulva, and vagina in women; and cancer of the penis in men. Different types of HPV can cause genital warts.



What are the symptoms?

Even though most people do not show any symptoms, HPV can still be spread through contact during any type of sexual activity with an infected person.

Most people will be infected at some point in their lives. HPV infection is most common during the late teens and early 20s.

- ♦ About **79 million** Americans are currently infected with HPV.
- ♦ About **14 million** people become infected each year.

Is there a cure?

There is no cure for HPV, but there are ways to treat the health problems caused by HPV such as genital warts and certain cancers. Most infections will clear on their own, but there is no way to know which people will develop cancer or other health problems. **Prevention is better than treatment.**

How can HPV be prevented?

HPV vaccination is a series of shots given over several months. Completing the vaccination series is important to ensure maximum protection against cancers caused by HPV infection. Over **90%** of cancers caused by HPV are preventable through HPV vaccination. It also protects against the HPV types that cause most genital warts.

Is HPV vaccine safe?



The vaccine is very safe. Side effects are generally mild and may include a sore arm, fever, and headache.

What if we can't afford the vaccine?

Families who need help paying for vaccines should ask their healthcare provider about the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The VFC program provides vaccines to uninsured and underinsured children younger than 19 years old. Parents may have to pay administration and office visit fees. For more information, contact the NJ VFC at (609) 826-4862.

Who should get HPV vaccine?

The vaccine is recommended for 11 to 12-year-old boys and girls because:

- ♦ The immune response to the HPV vaccine is better in preteens.
- ♦ Your child should be completely vaccinated before they are exposed to the virus.

Catch-up vaccination can be given at ages 13 through 26. The most important thing is for all preteens to complete the HPV vaccine series. Teens and young adults who haven't started or finished the HPV vaccine series should make an appointment today to get vaccinated.

Pregnant women and anyone who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine or to a previous dose should not receive the vaccine.

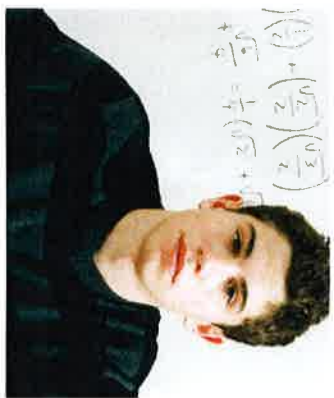
Where can I get more information?

- ♦ **Your healthcare provider**
- ♦ **New Jersey Department of Health**
www.nj.gov/health/cd/vdpd.shtml
- ♦ **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
www.cdc.gov/hpv
- ♦ **Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program**
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/parents/qa-flyer.pdf



What is the connection between HPV and cancer?

Every 20 minutes an American is diagnosed with an HPV-associated cancer. HPV can cause penile cancer in men and anal and throat cancers in men and women. HPV can also cause cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancer in women.



Can families get help paying for the vaccine?

Yes. Families who need help paying for vaccines should ask their health care provider about **Vaccines for Children (VFC)**.

The VFC program provides vaccines to uninsured and underinsured children younger than 19 years old. Parents may have to pay administration and office visit fees. For more information, contact the NJ VFC at 609-826-4862.



For more information, contact:

Your healthcare provider

Your local health department

❖ localhealth.nj.gov

NJ Department of Health:

❖ www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/hpv.shtml

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

❖ www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/stdfact-hpv-and-men.htm

❖ www.cdc.gov/features/hpvpvaccineboys/

❖ www.cdc.gov/hpv

Protect Me With 3+

❖ www.protectmewith3.com

Vaccines for Children

❖ www.cdc.gov/features/vfcprogram/

New Jersey Department of Health
Communicable Disease Service
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program
PO Box 369
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-826-4861

This information is intended for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace consultation with a health care professional.



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Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Boys and Young Men



Learn the facts about cancer prevention

HPV vaccine for boys:

- ❖ Helps prevent infections with the types of HPV that cause cancers of the penis, anus, and throat
- ❖ Helps prevent warts in the genital area (penis, testicles, groin, thighs, & area in or around the anus)
- ❖ Helps prevent infecting others with HPV

What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (pap-ah-LO-mah-VYE-rus) (HPV) is a group of common viruses that can **cause cancers and genital warts**. It is spread by skin-to-skin contact during any type of sexual activity including oral, vaginal, or anal sex with someone who has the virus. HPV usually has no symptoms, so most people can be infected and spread it—without realizing it. It's possible to get more than one type of HPV.

How does HPV affect boys and young men?

Each year about **11,000 HPV-associated cancers occur in men**; the most common is oropharyngeal (back of the throat, including base of the tongue and tonsils) cancers. Different types of HPV can cause genital warts.



How can I lower my chance of getting HPV?

Every year in the United States, HPV causes **30,700 cancers** in males and females. HPV vaccination can prevent most of the cancers (about 28,000) from occurring. The current vaccine protects against nine strains: seven strains that cause cancers and two strains that cause 90% of genital and anal warts. The vaccine is given in a multi-shot series.



The vaccine should also be considered for the following people if they were not vaccinated when they were younger: gay, bisexual, other men who have sex with men, or transgender through age 26; and young adults with HIV or weakened immune systems through age 26.

Ask your healthcare provider for more information about the vaccine.

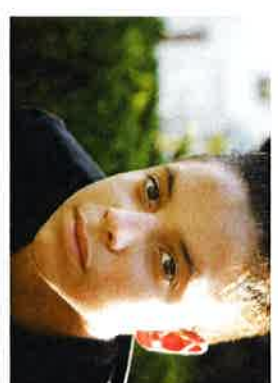
When should boys get the HPV vaccine?

Boys are recommended to get the HPV vaccine when they are **11-12 years old because:**

- ❖ The immune response to the HPV vaccine is better in preteens.
 - ❖ Boys should be completely vaccinated before they are exposed to the virus.
 - ❖ HPV infection is most common in teens and people in their early 20s.
 - ❖ Vaccination helps prevent HPV infections.
- Catch-up vaccination can be given at ages 13 through 26.**

Is the HPV vaccine safe?

Nearly 90 million doses of HPV vaccine have been administered in the U.S. since it was licensed by the FDA in 2006. **The HPV vaccine is very safe.** The most common side effects are pain in the arm where the shot was given, fever, and headache. Many vaccines given to teens can cause fainting so your health care provider may recommend that teens sit or lie down for 15 minutes after vaccination.



Can men get tested for HPV?

No. There is currently no approved test for HPV in men. Routine testing (also called "screening") to check for HPV or HPV-related disease before there are signs or symptoms, is not recommended by the CDC for anal, penile, or throat cancers in men in the United States. However, some healthcare providers do offer anal Pap tests to men who may be at increased risk for anal cancer, including men with HIV or men who receive anal sex. If you have symptoms and are concerned about cancer, please see a healthcare provider.

Is there a cure for HPV?

No. There is no cure for HPV, but there are ways to treat the health problems caused by HPV such as genital warts and certain cancers. Most infections will clear on their own, but there is no way to know which people will develop cancer or other health problems.

HPV causes cancers of the penis, anus, and throat in men.

Every 20 minutes an American is diagnosed with an HPV-associated cancer.

Prevention is always better than treatment.