

HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention

Is HPV vaccine recommended for ALL boys and young men?

The HPV vaccine series is recommended to be started for all males at age 11 or 12 years but can be started at age 9 years. HPV vaccine is recommended for males aged 13 through 21 years who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series. Vaccination is also recommended through age 26 years for males who have sex with males and for immunocompromised males (including those with HIV infection) if not vaccinated previously.

HPV immunization is a series of 3 doses of HPV vaccine, given in a 6-month period.

If the series is interrupted, you do not need any extra doses – just continue the series.



How common is HPV?

Most sexually active people will get HPV at some point in their lives. **But, most will never know it because HPV infection usually has no signs or symptoms.** The body is usually able to clear the infection on its own, without causing any health problems.

However, HPV infection can progress to warts or cancer and there is no certainty about who will have these problems from HPV. Some groups, such as those who are immunosuppressed or men who have sex with men (gay or bisexual), are more likely to have problems from HPV infection.

About 4% of males (1 out of every 25 males) in the U.S. report having had genital warts.

For more information

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
[CDC website on Preteen and Teen Vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens)
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens

The Vaccine Education Center at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

[A Look at Each Vaccine: Human Papillomavirus](http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/human-papillomavirus#.VbD3dPIViko)
www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/human-papillomavirus#.VbD3dPIViko

The American Academy of Pediatrics
[Pre-teen Immunization: Addressing Common Concerns](http://www2.aap.org/immunization/families/faq/AdolescentIZCommonConcerns.pdf)
www2.aap.org/immunization/families/faq/AdolescentIZCommonConcerns.pdf

[Healthychildren.org information](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Human-Papillomavirus-HPV-Vaccine-What-You-Need-to-Know.aspx)
www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Human-Papillomavirus-HPV-Vaccine-What-You-Need-to-Know.aspx

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Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Boys and Young Men



What you need to know...

Pennsylvania Immunization Education Program

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®
Pennsylvania Chapter



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Boys and Young Men

HPV vaccine for males

- Helps prevent warts in the genital area (penis, testicles, groin, thighs, and area in or around the anus)
- Helps prevent cancers in the genital area and in the throat
- Helps prevent infecting others with HPV

HPV can be passed to sexual partners and does not require intercourse to be spread. Any kind of genital contact, including oral sex, can spread HPV.

You can pass on HPV even if you do not have a wart or other symptoms.

Of genital warts, 90% are caused by HPV types 6 or 11.

The HPV vaccine recommended for males contains HPV types 6 and 11 and is effective against the most common causes of genital and anal warts.

HPV-associated cancers in males

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that around **9,300 HPV-associated cancers occur each year among males** in the United States.



Which HPV vaccine is recommended for males?

There are two brands of HPV vaccines available in the United States. Only one of them - Gardasil® - is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for males. This vaccine can help prevent boys from getting infected with the HPV types that can cause cancers of the mouth or throat, penis and anus as well as genital warts. Cervarix® brand HPV vaccine is approved only for females and should not be given to males.

HPV vaccine is most effective when all doses are given before sexual contact.

How safe is HPV vaccine for males?

More than **60 million doses** of HPV vaccine have been given in the U.S. since it was first licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2006. The vaccine is very safe for both females and males. The most common side effect is soreness in the arm where you get the shot, which is common with many vaccines. Other side effects may include headache or fever. Also, many vaccines (including HPV vaccine) given to teens can cause fainting so your health care provider will likely recommend that teens sit or lie down for vaccine shots and then wait in the office for 15 minutes just to be safe.

HPV is common and often goes unrecognized. The only sure way to not give or get HPV infection and genital warts is to abstain from sexual activity. If you are ever going to be sexually active, get the protection from HPV vaccine now.

How do I know if I have HPV?

There is no test to find out a person's "HPV status." Also, there is no approved HPV test to find HPV in the mouth or throat.

Since HPV is sexually transmitted, why immunize at younger ages?

All vaccines are most effective if given before the person is exposed. Many males and females - especially in their tween and teen years - may not plan ahead when it comes to sexual contact. Therefore, it is better to provide HPV protection now, well before they have any chance of exposure to the HPV virus.

Some young people may mistakenly think that only intercourse can spread sexually transmitted infections or think that condoms protect against all sexually transmitted infections. Sexually transmitted infections can be spread from one person to another by many types of contact including vaginal, anal, and oral contact.

Does using condoms prevent HPV?

Use condoms *the correct way* every time you have sex. This can lower your chances of getting all sexually transmitted infections including HPV. However, HPV can infect areas not covered by a condom, so condoms may not give full protection against getting HPV.

How is HPV disease treated?

There is currently no treatment for the HPV infection itself. Treatments for HPV are directed at the symptoms such as removing warts or treating cancers.

