



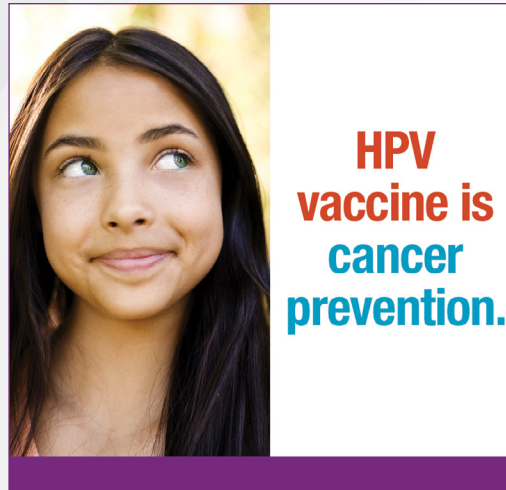
You have the power to protect your kids from certain cancers.

HPV vaccine is important because it protects against cancers caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV vaccines are safe and highly effective in preventing infection from certain types of HPV when given before a person is exposed to the virus.

Parents are the key to protecting adolescents from HPV. Talk with your child's healthcare provider about the HPV vaccine and make an appointment today.



37,000 people get cancer caused by HPV each year in the U.S.



HPV Vaccine

Protect your child against viruses that can cause cancer

Resources

Washington State Department of Health:
www.doh.wa.gov/hpv

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/hpv

Watch Me Grow Washington Hotline:
1-800-322-2588

Washington State Local Health Departments and Districts:
www.doh.wa.gov/localhealth



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To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.



What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common infection. It is spread easily by skin-to-skin contact, often during sexual activity. There are approximately 100 different types of HPV. Of those, at least 40 types can cause genital warts and several kinds of cancer, such as cancers of the back of the throat, cervix, vulva, vagina, anus, and penis.

Most people will be infected with at least one type of HPV at some point in their lives. About 14 million Americans become infected with HPV each year.

The good news is that most of these types of cancers and genital warts can be prevented.

What is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine protects against the most common cancers caused by HPV. HPV vaccine also helps to prevent genital warts.

How can I protect my child from HPV diseases?

Make an appointment for HPV vaccine with your child's healthcare provider.

- In Washington, HPV vaccine is provided at no cost for every child under age 19.
- Most health insurance plans cover it at no cost for those age 19 to 26.
- Need a doctor? Call the Help Me Grow Washington Hotline at 1-800-322-2588.

Who should get the HPV vaccine and when?

All children starting at age nine should get the HPV vaccine. Catch-up vaccination is recommended through age 26. Adults age 27 through 45 may choose to be vaccinated after having a discussion with their healthcare provider.

All recommended doses are needed for full protection.

- **Ages 9 to 14** need 2 doses, 6 to 12 months apart.
- **Ages 15 to 45** need 3 doses: doses 1 and 2: 1-2 months apart, dose 3: 6 months after dose 1.
- **Anyone with a weak immune system** needs the 3-dose schedule even if they're under 15.



Why does my child need the HPV vaccine at age 9?

Doctors and nurses recommend the vaccine at age 9, because the HPV vaccine is more effective the earlier it's given. The HPV vaccine produces the most infection-fighting cells, or antibodies, during the preteen years.

Because it's more effective at younger ages, teens who get immunized at age 15 or older will need more doses than those who get it at age 9 to 14.

Getting the vaccine at this age also ensures immunity is already in place well before they begin sexual activity later. However, if your teen hasn't received the vaccine, it is not too late. Talk to their healthcare provider about getting them immunized as soon as possible.

