

HPV Vaccine

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that can cause cancer. The HPV vaccine is the key to cancer prevention.

The HPV vaccine prevents infection from the most harmful kinds of the human papillomavirus. The vaccine is safe and effective and is recommended for both boys and girls beginning at 11 years of age, but can be given as early as age 9.

The vaccine works best when given in early adolescence, allowing time for immunity to develop, which means better protection as adolescents get older.

Vaccines: Your best shot at prevention.

If you have questions about vaccines, ask your healthcare provider.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON VACCINES AND DISEASES, VISIT

- hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization
- www.immunize.org
- www.cdc.gov/vaccines
- www.aap.org



Health and
Human Services
Public Health

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

Immunize for a better life!



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WHAT IS HPV?

HPV is spread through sexual contact even if an infected person has no signs or symptoms. In most cases, HPV infection goes away on its own and people infected with the virus never knew they had it. But, when HPV does not go away, it can cause health problems such as genital warts and cancer. Cancer often takes years to develop after a person is infected with HPV. HPV can have many serious consequences in both men and women including:

- cervical cancer
- anal cancer
- vulvar cancer
- penile cancer
- vaginal cancer
- throat cancer and genital warts

HPV FACTS

- 79 million Americans are currently infected with HPV
- 14 million people become newly infected with HPV each year
- 36,500 people in the U.S. are estimated to be diagnosed with a cancer caused by HPV infection
- 90% of cancers caused by HPV could be prevented with the HPV vaccination an estimated 33,700 cases in the U.S. every year
- The American Cancer Society projects 12,000 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will occur in the U.S. and about 4,000 women will die from the disease each year

HPV PREVENTION

The HPV vaccine offers the greatest health benefits to individuals who complete the series prior to exposure to HPV. HPV vaccine is recommended for both boys and girls at 11-12 years of age, but can be given as early as age 9. Catch up vaccination for older adolescents and young adults is recommended.

HOW MANY DOSES OF HPV VACCINE ARE NEEDED?

The HPV vaccine series consists of either a two- or three-doses over a 6-month period and can be administered at the same time as other vaccines. A complete HPV vaccine series is necessary to provide full protection. The vaccine works best in preteens and provides long-term protection.

IS THE HPV VACCINE SAFE?

Vaccines in the United States are safe and effective. Common side effects from vaccines are minor and include soreness where the vaccine was given or a low-grade fever. Such minor symptoms are normal and should be expected as the body builds immunity. Serious reactions are very rare. Anyone who receives a vaccine should be fully informed about both the benefits and the risks. Any questions or concerns should be discussed with your healthcare provider.

IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Proof of immunizations may be necessary throughout life. Talk with your healthcare provider about entering immunizations into Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) and to obtain copies of your records.

Worldwide, cervical cancer is the **fourth most common cancer in women** and is estimated to cause more than 604,000 new cases and **342,000 deaths each year.**

