

Protect your loved ones.
HPV vaccination is the best
way to prevent many types
of HPV-associated cancers.

For more information,
visit ImmunizeTexas.com
or call (800) 252-9152.



TEXAS

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What is human papillomavirus?

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus that is passed from person to person through sexual contact. There are more than 150 types of HPV. Some types cause health problems including genital warts and cancers. The most serious types of HPV are preventable with vaccines.

What is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine prevents infection with many types of HPV, some of which cause cancer.

What are the symptoms of HPV?

Most people with HPV do not know they are infected and never develop symptoms or health problems. Some people find out they have HPV when they get genital warts. Women may find out they have HPV when they get an abnormal Pap test result. Others may only find out once they've developed more serious problems from HPV, such as cancer.

What kind of cancer does HPV cause?

Some types of HPV cause cervical cancer in women, penile cancer in men, and other cancers of the back of the throat, base of the tongue and tonsils, and anal cancer in men and women.

Over 30,000 HPV-associated cancers are diagnosed in the United States each year.

Who is at risk of getting HPV?

Anyone sexually active is at risk of getting HPV. About 79 million Americans are currently infected with HPV, with 14 million new infections each year. HPV is so common that most sexually-active men and women will get it at some point in their life.

Who can get the HPV vaccine?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends a two- or three-dose series of HPV vaccine. Your health-care provider can give you more information. HPV vaccine is recommended for all preteens at age 11 or 12 years. Women 26 years of age and younger and men 21 years of age and younger should get the vaccine. Males 22 through 26 years old should talk to their health-care provider about the HPV vaccine.

Why does my child need the HPV vaccine at 11 or 12 years old?

The HPV vaccine is recommended for preteens so they are protected before being exposed to the virus. HPV vaccine also produces a better immune response during the preteen years. Older teens are also less likely to get health check-ups than preteens. If your teen hasn't gotten the vaccine yet, talk to their health-care provider about starting the vaccine series as soon as possible.

Is the vaccine safe?

All vaccines go through years of safety testing before they are licensed for use. The most common side effects of HPV vaccine are pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site. The benefit of HPV vaccine far outweighs the risk of side effects.

Can a woman who is pregnant get the HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccines are not recommended for pregnant women.

Are there others who should not get the HPV vaccine?

Anyone who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to any component of HPV vaccine, or to a prior dose of HPV vaccine, should not get the vaccine. Tell the health-care provider if the person getting the vaccine has any severe allergies, including an allergy to yeast.

For more information on HPV vaccine and other vaccine related questions, visit ImmunizeTexas.com or call (800) 252-9152.

You can also visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) HPV website at cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hpv/.