

**Protect your loved ones.
Prevent HPV. Vaccinate your
sons and daughters against
this terrible disease.**



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What is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is a vaccine that prevents the infection with the human papillomavirus.

What is the human papillomavirus?

The human papillomavirus also known as HPV is a very common virus that is passed from person to person through sexual contact. There are 40 types of HPV. Some types cause cervical cancer in women and genital warts in both men and women.

What are the symptoms of HPV?

Most HPV infections don't cause any symptoms, and go away on their own. But there is no way to know which people who get HPV will go on to develop cancer or other diseases.

What kind of cancer does HPV cause?

Some HPV types cause cervical cancer in women and other less common cancers in both men and women, such as penile, anal, and throat cancers including cancer of the tongue and tonsils.

HPV is the primary cause of cervical cancer in women. Each year, thousands of women in the United States (U.S.) die from HPV-induced cervical cancer.

Who is at risk of getting HPV?

Anyone who is sexually active is at risk of getting HPV. Approximately 20 million people are currently infected with HPV in the U.S. Many of these infections are among adolescents and young adults, 15 through 24 years of age.

What are the vaccines that prevent HPV?

There are two vaccines available for the prevention of HPV: Cervarix® and Gardasil®. Have a conversation with your health-care provider to learn which vaccine is most appropriate for your son or daughter.

Who can get the HPV vaccine?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends a three dose series of either HPV2 (Cervarix®) or HPV4 (Gardasil®) for all girls 11 or 12 years of age and for those 13 through 26 years of age, if not previously vaccinated. A three dose series of HPV4 (Gardasil®) is recommended for all males 11 or 12 years of age and for those 13 through 21 years of age, if not previously vaccinated. Males 22 through 26 years of age may be vaccinated.

How is the vaccine given?

The HPV vaccine is given through a series of 3 doses over a 6-month period. The first dose is given now, the second in 2 months, and the third 6 months after the first dose.

Is the vaccine safe?

Before any vaccine is licensed, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must determine that it is both safe and effective. The most common problems are brief soreness and other local symptoms at the injection site.

Can a woman who is pregnant get the HPV vaccine?

The vaccines are not recommended for administration to pregnant women. The two vaccines have not been sufficiently tested during pregnancy.

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 previous dose of HPV vaccine should not get the vaccine. Tell your doctor or 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 dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/public.shtm or call (800) 252-9152.

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