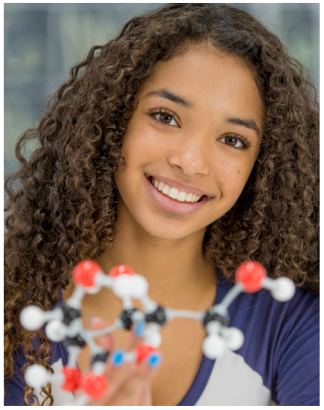
HPV vaccine is cancer prevention.

What is HPV?



Human papillomavirus (pap-ah-LO-mah-VYE-rus) (HPV) is a group of common viruses that can **cause cancers and genital warts**. It is spread by skin-to-skin contact during any type of sexual activity including oral, vaginal, or anal sex with someone who has the virus. HPV usually has no symptoms, so most people can be infected and spread it—without realizing it. It's possible to get more than one type of HPV.

How common are HPV infections?

HPV infections are so common that nearly all men and women will get at least one type of HPV at some point in their lives. **Nearly 80 million Americans** are currently infected with some type of HPV. **About 14 million Americans**, including teens, become infected each year.

Get vaccinated!

For more information, contact:

Your healthcare provider

Your local health department

- Localhealth.nj.gov

NJ Department of Health:

- www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/hpv.shtml

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- www.cdc.gov/hpv

Protect Me With 3+

- www.protectmewith3.com

Vaccines for Children

- www.cdc.gov/features/vfcprogram/

New Jersey Department of Health
Communicable Disease Service
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program
PO Box 369
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-826-4861

This information is intended for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace consultation with a healthcare provider.

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Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

for Preteens and Teens

Learn the facts about cancer prevention

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Preteens & Teens

What Is the connection between HPV and cancer?

Most HPV infections (9 out of 10) go away by themselves within two years. Sometimes HPV infections will last longer and can cause certain types of cancers. Every year in the United States, HPV is estimated to cause nearly **35,000 cases of cancer** in men and women. HPV infections can cause cancers of the:

- cervix, vagina, and vulva in females;
- penis in males; and
- anus and back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils (oropharynx), in both males and females.

Can I get tested for HPV?

No. 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. There are HPV tests that can be used to screen for cervical cancer. These tests are only recommended for screening in women aged 30 years and older. HPV tests are not recommended to screen men, adolescents, or women under the age of 30 years.

Is there a cure for HPV?

No. There is no cure for HPV, but there are ways to treat the health problems caused by HPV such as genital warts and certain cancers or precancers. Most infections will clear on their own, but there is no way to know which people will develop cancer or other health problems.

How can I lower my chances of getting HPV?

HPV vaccination can help prevent most HPV-associated cancers from occurring. Since the vaccine was first recommended in 2006, there has been a significant reduction in HPV infections. The current vaccine protects against nine strains of HPV: seven strains that cause cancers and two strains that cause 90% of genital and anal warts. The vaccine is given in a multi-shot series.

Who should get the HPV vaccine?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the HPV vaccine series for all males and females at ages 11 or 12 (or can start at age 9 years) and for everyone through age 26 years* if not vaccinated already. For the HPV vaccine to be most effective, the series should be given prior to exposure to HPV. Starting the vaccine series today can help protect you from the cancers and diseases caused by HPV.

If you get the first dose before your 15th birthday, you will only need two doses. If you get the first dose on or after your 15th birthday then you will need three doses. Those with weakened immune systems should also receive three doses.

** Vaccination is not recommended for everyone older than age 26 years. However, some adults age 27 through 45 years who are not already vaccinated may decide to get the HPV vaccine after speaking with their healthcare provider about their risk for new HPV infections and the possible benefits of vaccination.*

Is the HPV vaccine safe?

The HPV vaccine is safe, effective, and provides long-lasting protection against certain types of cancer later in life. Over 120 million doses of HPV vaccine have been administered in the U.S. since it was licensed by the FDA in 2006, and data continue to show the vaccine is safe and effective. The most common side effects are pain in the arm where the shot was given, fever, and headache. Many vaccines given to teens can cause fainting so your healthcare provider may recommend that you sit or lie down for 15 minutes after vaccination.

Can families get help paying for the vaccine?

Yes. Families who need help paying for vaccines should ask their healthcare provider about **Vaccines for Children (VFC)**. The VFC program provides vaccines to uninsured and underinsured children younger than 19 years old. Parents may have to pay administration and office visit fees. For more information, contact the NJ VFC at 609-826-4862.

HPV can cause six types of cancer.

HPV vaccine is cancer prevention.

Prevention is always better than treatment.