

# HPV is a serious disease...

## Make sure your child is protected!

### What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S. HPV can lead to cervical cancer in women, as well as other oral and genital (sex organ) cancers in men and women. HPV also can cause genital warts.

### How do you catch HPV?

A person can get the HPV virus during sexual contact without knowing it.

### Is HPV serious?

Yes. HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer. In the U.S., about 13,000 women get cervical cancer every year, and about 4,000 die from it. It can also lead to cancers of the vagina, vulva, penis, anus, throat, and mouth.



### Is my child at risk?

If and when your child ever begins sexual activity, then they are at risk. At least half of sexually active people get infected with HPV at some point in their lives.

### How can I protect my child from HPV?



Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from HPV infection. The vaccine is most effective if given before a person becomes sexually active. However, even if sexual activity has begun, a person can still be protected by the vaccine and should be vaccinated.

**Ask your child's healthcare provider if your child is up to date for all vaccines!**

Both girls and boys should start the HPV vaccination series at age 11–12 years. All older teens and young adults should also complete the HPV vaccine series if they haven't already done so.

► For more information, visit [www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org)

For other vaccine handouts in this series, visit [www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries](http://www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries)



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