

Protect yourself from HPV...

Get vaccinated!

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 cancers in men and women. HPV also can cause genital warts.

How do you catch it?

HPV is usually spread during sex. You can spread (or get) the virus without knowing it. Sometimes babies become infected from their mothers during birth.

Is it 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. HPV can also lead to cancers of the vagina, vulva, penis, anus, throat, and mouth.



Am I at risk?

If you ever have sex, you are at risk. At least half of sexually active people get infected with HPV at some point in their lives.

How can I protect myself from HPV?



Vaccination is the best way to prevent HPV infection. The vaccine is most effective if you get it before becoming sexually active. However, if you are already sexually active, you should still get vaccinated.

**Talk to
your healthcare
provider
about HPV
vaccine!**

Both boys and girls should start the HPV vaccination series at age 11–12 years. All older teens and young adults through age 26 years should complete the HPV vaccine series if they haven't already done so. People ages 27 through 45 should check with their healthcare providers to decide whether they need to be protected with HPV vaccine.

► For more information, visit www.vaccineinformation.org

For other vaccine handouts in this series, visit www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries

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